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Arab 'anti-terrorism' plan on hold

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab justice ministers have put on hold until next year a disputed draft plan for combating militant violence, officials at the Arab League said Wednesday. They said several member states voiced reservations on aspects of the plan, which would be discussed at the next meeting of justice ministers in 1996. The draft agreement "underlines the desire of the parties for close cooperation against terrorism, which threatens security and stability in Arab countries," said Egypt's Justice Minister Farouk Seif Al-Nasr. The executive committee of the Arab League Council of Justice Ministers in Cairo drew up the draft in coordination with the council of interior ministers, he said. It "establishes the bases for cooperation against terrorism especially (concerning) the exchange of information and evidence and the mechanisms for extraditing prisoners," he said. The justice ministers opened their meeting on Tuesday, a day after a car bomb attack on U.S. offices in Riyadh used to train the Saudi National Guard that killed five Americans and an Indian national.

Two Americans turned back from Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) — Two Americans who arrived Nigeria for a programme organised by the U.S. Information Service (USIS) office here were immediately turned back by security agents on arrival at Lagos airport, diplomatic sources said Wednesday. Robert Holmes and Henry Elong, environmentalists from the Clark Atlanta University, Georgia, were on Saturday refused entry into the country by immigration officials at the airport, the sources told AFP. The visit of the two Americans had been planned for a long time, the sources added. Although no official reason has so far been given for sending the Americans back, observers pointed to the reaction of the U.S. government against last Friday's execution of renowned writer and minority rights campaigner, Ken Saro-Wiwa, and right of his companions. Among other sanctions, following the execution, the U.S. government has clamped on Nigeria an embargo on the sale and repair of arms and has also tightened its visa regime on government officials visiting America.

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Peres named prime minister

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Labour leader Shimon Peres was officially appointed as Israel's new prime minister on Wednesday as President Ezer Weizman asked him to form a government to advance the peace process. Mr. Peres, accepting Mr. Weizman's appointment, pledged to work for peace with neighbouring Arab countries and for a reconciliation between Israelis. "At this difficult hour I thank you Mr. President for your help, and I will make every effort to achieve peace with our neighbours and between ourselves," Mr. Peres said. The 72-year-old political veteran said he was ready to assume the task, but added: "My heart is heavy at the thought of the circumstances which have led to this."

"The loss of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, let his name be blessed, victim of a murderer's bullets, has left a people in tears and suffering."

Mr. Weizman said: "After consulting for two days with representatives from all the political factions I decided to confer on you the task of forming a government."

The "overwhelming majority of parliamentary groups proposed" Mr. Peres as new prime minister, following the assassination of Mr. Rabin on Nov. 4, he said.

Mr. Weizman, who has in past months criticised the autonomy accords with the Palestinians in the wake of deadly anti-Israeli bombings, pledged his "complete support for the continuation of the peace process."

U.S. hints at foreign role in Saudi blast

RIYADH (Agencies) — U.S. Ambassador Raymond Mabius on Wednesday hinted at possible foreign involvement in the devastating bomb blast which killed five Americans and an Indian at a U.S.-run Saudi Arabia military centre two days ago.

"Saudi Arabia lives in a bad neighbourhood," he told reporters who asked for possible motives for the attack, which has sent shock waves through the secretive kingdom (see page 2).

Mr. Mabius said U.S. investigators so far had no idea who was behind the suspected car bomb, which he described as a "very sophisticated" device triggered by a timer.

But when asked whether foreign powers hostile to the United States and Saudi Arabia — such as Iran — might be responsible, he replied: "I've got a very open mind as to who might be involved, but... we have some bad neighbours... that is one of them."

U.S. embassy officials said American women were among the 60-odd people who were injured when the bomb exploded in a car park near the Saudi National Guard training centre while its foreign employees were eating in a cafeteria.

Some were critically ill and one woman had to have 100 stitches in four hours of surgery, a Western executive said.

Mr. Mabius said the bomb was clearly directed at Americans but vowed they would not be cowed by what he described as a "cowardly act."

"We're not going to withdraw behind walls... we will keep doing what we are going to do here... we will not be intimidated by this tragedy," he said. The incident would not have any impact on the close ties between the United States and Saudi Arabia, he added.

Iran denied any involvement in the bombing. "The accusations are completely false and based on no evidence," the official newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah said.

A Kuwaiti newspaper said

King calls on silent majority to speak up

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday voiced his deep appreciation of the Jordanian peoples' celebration of his 60th birthday and the sincere good wishes and greetings which were sent to him on the occasion. He pledged to dedicate his whole life to serve the people and the Arab Nation.

Speaking to the morning television programme, "New Day," King Hussein said that he hopes that all Jordanians will be aware of and shoulder their responsibilities towards their country and nation.

"I do not wish to see the silent majority always silent but rather airing their views and expressing themselves about their aspirations and hopes and working towards achieving them," said the King. "We hope to hear the voice of the silent majority ringing loud and strong and frank about what is right."

The King expressed hope that the Jordanian people will succeed in pursuing their march and clearly define their course for the future in an atmosphere characterised by peace, security and stability.

Referring to the past which, he said, will help this region to achieve progress and prosperity. "There is also need for the people to protect democracy so that it will serve as an example for others to follow and there is need for the Jordanians to live the political pluralism within a united Jordanian family," added the King.

King Hussein stressed that "man is the basis and the target and therefore respect of human rights remains our utmost objective."

Referring to the past years the King said they brought many challenges to him but he was determined to do the impossible to help the Jordanian people to pave the way for a brighter future.

King Hussein on Wednesday received more cables of good wishes from Arab and foreign heads of state and leaders congratulating him on his birthday.

King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia sent a cable congratulating the King and wishing him good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Similar cables were sent by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Turkish President Suleiman Demirel, Chad President Idris Debie, King Juan Carlos of Spain, Swedish King Carl Gustav, North Korean President Kim Jong-Il and Finnish President Mauno Koivisto.

The King also received cables from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifah Ben Salman Al Khalifah and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic.

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U.S. asks Croatia to hand over war crime suspects

ZAGREB (R) — The United States pressed Croatia on Wednesday to cooperate with the U.N. war crimes tribunal after a Bosnian Croat militia general indicted for slaughter of Muslims was appointed to a senior Croatian army post.

President Franjo Tudjman on Tuesday named General Tihomir Blaskic, chief of staff of the Bosnian Croat militia (HVO), as inspector in the Croatian army general inspectorate, one day after his indictment for crimes against humanity.

"The only appointment Mr. Blaskic can legally have now is with the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague," Peter Galbraith, U.S. ambassador to Croatia, said.

"All countries — Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia — have a legal obligation to turn over indicted war criminals who are on their territory. Cooperation is a factor that will affect U.S. relations with these countries," he told reporters in Zagreb.

Independent analysts and even officials in Mr. Tudjman's government were taken aback by the president's move at a time when he is negotiating for Croat interests at the ex-Yugoslav peace conference, mediated by U.S. diplomats in Dayton, Ohio.

The United Nations criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia on Monday charged six leading Bosnian Croats, including Mr. Blaskic and Dario Kordic, president of the Bosnian wing of Mr. Tudjman's HDZ party, with war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed against Muslims in ethnic fighting in 1993.

Some analysts said the move seemed to be less a promotion than a hasty manoeuvre to relieve Mr. Blaskic of his frontline command and shift him to an obscure administrative position.

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A Palestinian woman holds a collage showing Yasser Arafat in Jerusalem at a demonstration in Gaza on Wednesday as she and others celebrate the seventh anniversary of the declaration of independence by the Palestinian National Council (AFP photo)

Palestinians celebrate 'independence'

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Thousands of Palestinians turned out here on Wednesday to celebrate the seventh anniversary of the declaration of the "State of Palestine" proclaiming that their dream was within sight.

"The Palestinian state is beginning to take shape," the secretary general of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Tayeb Abdul Rahim, told a crowd of 10,000 people in a stadium in Gaza City.

Seven armoured troop transporters equipped with machine guns took part in a military parade in the city, as thousands of people across the territories celebrated the anniversary of the 1988 declaration by the Palestinian National Council.

But trouble flared in the West Bank town of Nablus where Israeli troops fired on the crowds and threw tear gas.

A breakaway group from the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Fatah movement burned tyres in the centre of Nablus and threw stones at Israeli soldiers.

Soldiers fired live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas at the stone-throwers, they added.

There were no reports of casualties but Palestinians said the tear-gas drove many people off the streets.

In Jenin, where Israeli troops withdrew on Monday after 28 years of occupation, more than 3,000 Palestinians joined policemen in an independence day parade on Wednesday.

"We in the Jenin district feel very happy and hope that the day will come when the Palestinian state gains its full independence," said Louis Hazboun, a Catholic priest attending the Jenin celebrations.

The PLO has decided to delay an independence day reception in the PLO's Jerusalem headquarters due on Wednesday to avoid embarrassing acting Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres as he forms a new government.

Faisal Al Hussein, the PLO official in charge of Palestinians in the city, said: "The reception was delayed until further notice so it would not be exploited by Israeli elements to disrupt our partner's attempts to reorganise political conditions in Israel."

PLO officials said Mr. Peres and other Israelis had also objected to the wording of invitations to the reception in the Orient House, the PLO's headquarters in East Jerusalem.

The invitations said the reception would be "Under the patronage of H.E. President Yasser Arafat" — wording which Israelis could construe

as a violation of agreements banning PLO activity in the city at this stage in peace negotiations.

In Gaza motorcycles ridden by Palestinian policemen drove behind the troop transporters, while hundreds of balloons in the red, black, white and green colours of the Palestinian flag were released into the air.

Dozens of flags and posters of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who declared the day a public holiday, were stuck to the walls of the stadium and in the streets.

Mr. Arafat, however, missed the ceremonies because he left for Paris to take part in ceremonies to mark the 50th anniversary of UNESCO.

"The declaration of the state placed us on the political map and the (1993) Declaration of Principles put us

(Continued on page 7)

Associations cry foul over expected curbs on their powers

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nine opposition political parties have rejected government plans to amend laws governing the professional associations, describing the impending changes "as a first step to weaken the institutions of civil society (and) silencing popular opposition" to the peace treaty with Israel.

In a joint statement made public yesterday the opposition parties, mainly Islamist and left-wing pan-Arabists, said the government wants to dominate the professional associations through amending laws governing them so that they become another "tool in the hands of government agencies which are plagued by bureaucracy, corruption, favoritism and administrative imbalances."

"The political parties which have signed this statement express their rejection

of these policies which work against the national interest of the country and hinder the active role of professional unions in national productivity," said the statement, which was signed by the Islamic Action Front, the Jordanian Socialist Arab Baath Party, the Jordanian Communist Party and the National Action Front as well as other pan-Arabist and leftist political groups.

The associations have repeatedly come under criticism by His Majesty King Hussein and the government for what the regime described as undue meddling in politics to the detriment of union members' interests.

In a speech to senior military officers last week, the King said the country would no longer tolerate the associations' stands and instructed the government to curb their influence.

Eleven professional associations have taken a hardline

stand against the peace treaty with Israel, adopting decisions that allow for punishing members who "normalise ties with Israel."

Membership in professional unions is mandatory and many professionals, like doctors, engineers and lawyers, cannot practise unless they are licensed by the associations. The unions have threatened to withdraw the practice licence from members who deal with Israelis.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker told the Jordan Times in an interview this week that the government would act to end the associations' interference in national politics but said that the nature of the amendments that would be introduced to laws governing them have not been decided yet.

Observers say the government might amend the law to make membership in the unions voluntary or seek a ruling from the Higher Council

for the Interpretation of the Constitution on whether it is constitutional for the unions to meddle in politics.

Traditionally, the associations played a role in compensating for political parties when they were banned.

"The Constitution, the National Charter and the Political Parties Law allow Jordanian citizens to join political parties. This applies for members of union," said the opposition parties, which urged members of the professional associations to "unite to protect their unions."

The parties said the professional unions play an important role in society and in raising the people's awareness of national responsibilities, upholding the principles of democracy, human rights and public freedoms.

Acting to limit the role of the associations, said the statement, "will undermine the state because the national structure cannot be complete

unless civic institutions are protected and their role in consolidating national awareness, social, professional and voluntary work is strengthened."

The statement said Jordanian unions have played a major role in upgrading the professional abilities of their members, providing them with basic services such as medical insurance and social security, curbing unemployment and monitoring the performance of their members.

"duties which the government bureaucracy cannot do" Sharif Zeid said in this week's interview with the Jordan Times that the action the government will take in its effort to end the association's interference in politics would not affect the benefits that their members have.

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Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh (centre) Wednesday opens an exhibition of photos of His Majesty King Hussein at the University of Jordan as part of the university's celebrations of the King's 60th birthday. Mr. Habashneh was accompanied by university President Fawzi Charaibeh (right) (Petra photo)

Jordanian females are overweight, says study

AMMAN (J.T.) — A recently published study carried out on Jordanian individuals showed that females were 9.7 kg overweight when compared to an ideal weight in other countries, that the younger people have larger foot length and breadth than their parents and grandparents, and that Jordanians were shorter than Americans, the French, the Germans taller than the Japanese, according to a recent study.

The study, carried out by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), and financed by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) and the Industrial Development Bank (IDB), is intended to inform manufacturers, businessmen, and decision-makers, the study said.

The Ministry of Education, who recommended the study, is expected to take into consideration the physical dimensions of Jordanian students between the age groups of 6-9, 10-13, 14-17, when desks and chairs are being designed.

The study recommended that the ministry should also take physical education classes seriously as Jordanian girls are traditionally not encouraged to be physically active.

It said that a lack of physical exercise could lead to hypertension and diabetes.

On the other hand, the study showed that Jordanian males had "ideal" weight, which is 72.3 kg. The average weight of the Jordanian woman was 58.8 kg, according to the study.

The study explained that young Jordanians have larger foot size because they wear rubber sports shoes, and it recommended adopting British foot measurements which include half sizes.

The average height of the adult Jordanian male (18-45 years) is 1711mm. As for women, the average height for the same age group was 1591mm.

The study, which was carried out on 3,438 Jordanians, provided 40 physical measurements for the Jordanian individual, including average weight, overall height, length of arms and legs, foot and head size as compared to other countries.

The random sample represented Jordanians from different age groups, gender, and professions.

Naur woman killed over alleged affair

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 22-year-old Naur woman Tuesday was shot and killed by her brother for allegedly having an affair with a man, according to judicial sources.

But subsequent investigations revealed that there was no affair between the victim and another man, the source said.

The source told the Jordan Times Wednesday that Taghrid A. was at her father's house in Al Rawdah suburb at around 7.30 p.m.

Taghrid was shot once in the back by her brother, Mohammad, 19. The young woman died instantly, the source added.

Mohammad, who allegedly used his father's gun to commit the crime, surrendered to authorities immediately following the incident, the source said.

According to the source, Mohammad killed his sister "because he received information from a friend that his sister had an affair with someone."

"He (the suspect) became angry upon learning of the news and shot his sister without investigating the

story," the source said. Police contacted by the Jordan Times Wednesday confirmed the incident but refused to comment.

Taghrid became the eighth woman reported to have been killed in the Kingdom in a "crime of honour" this year.

Meanwhile, police Wednesday apprehended a 30-year-old man on suspicion of shooting and killing his brother-in-law in Sweifiah, confirmed sources said.

According to the source, Sami K., who was to be wed the same evening, Wednesday, is suspected of

shooting Ashraf Rawhi S., 27, in the back in his studio in Sweifiah allegedly because of old feuds.

"The victim (Ashraf) went to the suspect's store and started to provoke him over old conflicts," the source said.

According to the source, the argument then became heated and the suspect allegedly came from behind the victim and shot him in the back of the head.

The suspect, "who carried a gun at all times" stayed in his shop, called his family and the police, the source said. He was apprehended the same evening and on

"Wednesday morning he confessed and re-enacted the crime," said the source.

The victim, a father of a one-year-old daughter, died instantly as a result of his wounds, the source said.

Meanwhile, judicial sources said that police were still looking for two suspects in connection with the Nov. 12 stabbing of a 20-year-old man in his grocery store in the Third Circle.

"At this time, we have a good description of the assailants but we have not apprehended anyone," the source told the Jordan Times.

Jordan elected to Arab housing council panel

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan has been elected to the Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministers of Housing Council for a two-year term, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzak Ensour.

Mr. Ensour, who attended the Housing meeting in Cairo, said he believes Jordan's election was in recognition of its high standard building codes which were submitted to and approved by the council during its two-day meeting in Cairo.

Dr. Ensour said that Jordan is preparing building codes to serve as unified systems for the Arab World.

Jordan is currently implementing technical work required for the second phase of the Arab building codes, and the Arab ministers' council has already adopted the first set of these codes to be used by the Arab states, the minister

said. The council endorsed a draft pan-Arab declaration on sustainable development for habitat and called on Arab countries to take part in a UN-sponsored habitat meeting to be held in New York in February and another to be held in Turkey in June of 1996.

It also approved a number of measures to be taken by Arab states in celebrating the Arab housing day in October of 1996.

The ministers studied a report prepared by the UN Centre for Population Activities and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on national housing policies. The ministers voiced their countries' pledge to back the Palestine National Authority in carrying out a housing project and infrastructure schemes in the self-rule areas of Palestine.



Students Wednesday march through the University of Jordan campus in marking the 60th birthday of His Majesty King Hussein which fell on Nov. 14. Classes were closed Tuesday as the government declared that day a national holiday (Petra photo)

Mayor opens 2 public libraries in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi Wednesday opened two public libraries, one at Al Ashrafiah and another in the Yarmouk district, in the eastern outskirts of Amman, as part of the municipality's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 60th birthday.

The mayor toured the library sections and promised the municipality will open more public libraries around the country in a bid to give impetus to the cultural movement in the capital.

The library at Al

Ashrafiah consists of three halls for children's activities and for teaching music. It holds 18,000 books and periodicals all dealing with children's literature while that in the Yarmouk district library has 8,000 books on various subjects.

According to Mohammad Kafawin, director of the municipality's libraries division, the two new libraries have raised to 16 the number of public libraries existing within the Amman area, which together hold 275,000 books.

Mr. Kafawin said that the public library at Yarmouk

has a total area of 1,500 square metres and serves 170,000 residents of the Yarmouk district, considered among the most densely populated areas of Amman, with 38 schools for 40,000 students.

Meanwhile, celebrations on the King's birthday continued in several regions including a large campus march by students of the University of Jordan, and rallies in Irbid and Balqa governorates.

Various public and private organisations, scouts and girl guides took part in the rallies.

Postal services start between Jordan, PNA

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) Wednesday put into force a bilateral agreement signed on Jan. 26 on the exchange of mail between Jordan and the self-rule areas of Palestine.

A special ceremony was held on the occasion in South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley not far from the River Jordan, during which the Minister of Post and Communications, Jamil Saraireh, received a letter addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from Palestine President Yasser Arafat conveying greetings to the monarch on his 60th birthday.

The letter was delivered by Abdul Hafiz Al Asha-

hab, the PNA minister of post and communications, to Mr. Saraireh.

At the same time a letter addressed to the self-rule areas from the Kingdom was conveyed to the Palestinian side.

Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Saraireh said that the exchange was in implementation of the bilateral agreement enforced after Palestinians took control of the postal services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Jordan and the PNA have now agreed to regularly exchange mail directly between them across the King Hussein Bridge, the minister said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- FILM**
 - "David" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis at Darat Al Funun on Thursday at 5.30 p.m.)
 - "The Empire of the Sun" at the American Center on Thursday at 5.00 p.m.
- CONCERT & DANCE**
 - "La Folia Quartet" playing baroque classics at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8.00 p.m.
 - Performance by a Pakistani cultural troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 7.00 p.m.
- CELEBRATIONS**
 - Two-day celebrations marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday at the Jubilee School, Thursday and Friday (10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.) Includes live demonstrations of NHF projects, bas
- EXHIBITIONS**
 - "Pakistani Women of Substance in paintings and photographs" at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jebel Weibdeh. Also, single country exhibition of Pakistani products at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.
 - U.N. photo exhibition on the occasion of the U.N.'s 50th anniversary, "The U.N. through the eyes of its staff," at Abdul Hameed Shoman Gallery, Jabal Amman through Nov. 23.
 - Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery.
- SHORT STORY RECITAL**
 - Recital of short stories by Oklah Hadad at the Phoenix Gallery on Thursday at 6.00 p.m.
- Other activities**
 - ket and jewellery making, paper making, fabric and cloth making on looms, broom making, rug weaving, pottery making and clinical check-ups, plus other activities.



Two bagpipers of the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces Band play national songs along the beachfront in Aqaba as tourists bask in the autumn sun on Tuesday, Nov. 14, His Majesty's birthday (AFP photo)

On the occasion of the 60th Birthday of His Majesty King Hussein and Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

The Ministry of Culture and The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation present

WIESBADEN BKA CHOIR
and renowned star **Benny Maro**

● Saturday
18 November 1995 - 8:00 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

Ticket price: JD 5

Tickets available at:
- Alahia Abela Superstore, tel. 688481
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Champions Sports Wear, tel. 861065
- Freddy For Music, tel. 692696
- Music Box, tel. 815745
- Romero, tel. 644227
- Royal Cultural Centre, tel. 661026
- National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

Former S. Korean President grilled again; faces arrest

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's disgraced ex-President Roh Tae-Woo Wednesday was grilled by state prosecutors for the second time over his \$654 million slush funds and media reports said his arrest was imminent.

State television said Mr. Roh was likely to be arrested in the early hours of Thursday morning after an extended interrogation over his illicit fortune.

The domestic Yonhap News Agency quoted unnamed prosecutors as saying Mr. Roh faced bribery charges, which would make him the first South Korean head of state, serving or retired, to face criminal action.

A prosecution official said he could not confirm the news reports, but added, "Since this is the second time he is being summoned, you can't rule out the possibility of his arrest."

In a surprise move, Mr. Roh was abruptly summoned by prosecutors one day after threatening to spill the beans on who he paid money to during 1992 presidential elections won by Mr. Kim Young-Sam.

Opposition politicians immediately claimed Mr. Roh was being hauled in to silence him. Media reports had suggested Mr. Roh would be called for questioning later this week.

Mr. Roh arrived at the prosecutor general's office at mid-afternoon Thursday in a black limousine looking relaxed and wearing a slight smile.

He marched through the revolving doors of the high rise prosecution building in a Seoul suburb with his aides at this side and brushed past a crowd of



Former South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo walks into the prosecutor general's office Wednesday after being summoned for a second time to answer questions on the \$650 million slush fund he has admitted amassing while in office from 1987 to 1993 (AFP photo)

about 200 reporters at the entrance without saying a word.

Mr. Roh's top aide Tuesday said the ex-president had threatened to reveal the names of politicians who dipped into his slush money in 1992 if he was ressumoned.

The information could be political dynamite since the biggest question surrounding the scandal is whether Mr. Kim took money from Mr. Roh. The president has denied taking "a single cent" but opinion polls show most Koreans think he is lying.

In a tearful confession last

month, Mr. Roh, 62, confessed to plundering \$654 million from business groups for a political war chest during his 1988-93 term in office.

Since his first summons this month heads of more than 30 business conglomerates have been questioned and prosecutors say they have evidence some of them gave bribes to Mr. Roh, setting the stage for his criminal prosecution.

Prosecutors have been quoted as saying they now know where most of Mr. Roh's illicit wealth came from but are still trying to track down the rest.

The Seoul Stock Index

closed down 11.30 points at 937.04, partly because of worries about the damage Mr. Roh could inflict on business tycoons if he tells the truth.

During his last questioning Mr. Roh stonewalled, saying he wanted to protect the country.

Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung has already confessed to accepting several million dollars from Mr. Roh, badly tarnishing his image. His National Congress for New Politics urged Mr. Roh to come clean during his latest grilling.

"As an apology to the public for what he did as ex-president, he must tell the truth," it said in a statement. Mr. Roh's earlier-than-expected summons was to "keep Roh's mouth shut", the statement said.

Mr. Roh "must not bow to threats from the Democratic Liberal Party," it said, referring to President Kim's ruling party.

South Korea's Justice Minister Ahn Woo-Mahn Monday ordered the probe into the bankrolling of the 1992 vote.

Mr. Roh's former chief bodyguard Lee Hyun-Woo, a middleman in helping Mr. Roh build up his slush fund, was also called in for questioning Wednesday for the fifth time.

The head of Sammi Group and vice-chairman of Woosung Construction were also summoned Wednesday.

Prosecutors had also started to tighten the case around Mr. Roh's close family and relatives. His brother was summoned and, according to news reports, prosecutors were planning to call in his wife and son.



Britain's Prince Charles, who celebrated his 47th birthday Tuesday, discusses with a young student at the International School in Potsdam, Germany, his school autumn project during a visit to Schloss Cecilienhof. Meanwhile in England it was revealed that Prince Charles' estranged wife Princess Diana is to appear in a solo TV interview for the first time to give her version of events that broke down their marriage (AFP photo)

Diana causes furore over TV show

LONDON (R) — Buckingham Palace's fury at a television interview in which Princess Diana is expected to disclose secrets of her marriage break-up with Prince Charles grabbed front-page headlines Wednesday.

The hour-long interview, filmed in secret and due to be screened by the BBC Monday, was widely seen as an act of revenge on her estranged husband, the heir to the British throne, who admitted 18 months ago he had been unfaithful to her.

With tabloids such as the Daily Mirror asking whether Princess Diana had gone mad, more serious-minded newspapers such as the Guardian and the Independent, which traditionally shuns stories on the royals, gave it front-page treatment.

Focusing on how Princess Diana broke protocol by arranging the interview without consulting Buckingham Palace, the Daily Telegraph headlined its editorial Behind the Queen's Back.

The Sun reported on Buckingham Palace's rage as the glamorous princess ignited "Di-namite" under the highly flammable House of Windsor with her no-holds-barred interview.

Royal Family At War, Today announced on its front page.

The Mirror even accused Princess Diana of verging on treason, which is still punishable by death in Britain.

"Deceitful and under-

hand?" asked the Daily Mail. "Charles' friends hit back bitterly after the princess stages her extraordinary secret TV interview coup."

In short, Britain could talk of nothing else but the secrets Princess Diana was likely to reveal in the programme taped at apartments in Kensington Palace.

Prince Charles himself spoke openly about his troubled life in his television documentary last year, a risky bid to win public approval in which he admitted committing adultery once his marriage failed.

News of Princess Diana's interview, conducted in highly controversial fashion without Buckingham Palace consent, was released with calculated timing Tuesday as Prince Charles celebrated his 47th birthday.

The timing appeared to prove her desire to hit back at the balding, middle-aged man who friends say has made her life a misery.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana have broken many royal rules since their fairytale wedding, seen around the world, shivered into a loveless marriage that officially broke up in late 1992.

Much is at stake for 34-year-old Diana, who is increasingly portrayed as a flighty young woman while Prince Charles has chiselled out a life as a serious, if quirky, king-in-waiting.

The two now keep separate courts, even though they come together occasionally for the sake of their

two sons.

The BBC said the interview with Panorama, a respected current affairs show, would delve into all the murky corners of her life "including her family, her separation and her future plans". It is expected to draw millions of viewers.

The queen, for one, will not be watching, said the palace.

Despite stringent security at the BBC, the Sun said it had learnt of the programme's contents and that Princess Diana would answer many of the royal watchers' burning questions.

"I am not desperate or pushing for a divorce," the Sun quoted Princess Diana as saying in the interview.

Both royals have been linked with other partners.

Princess Diana has forged a string of friendships with married men while Prince Charles has been tied to old flame Camilla Parker Bowles — but nobody knows if the couple plan to formalise their separation.

As for herself, Princess Diana is quoted as saying her controversial friendship with England rugby union captain Will Carling was "innocent" despite claims it killed his marriage.

"I have never been stronger," Princess Diana reportedly says as commentators avidly await the spectacle of the fetching princess using words rather than pictures to sell her side of the story.

Osaka offers 'APEC specials' but beware pitfalls

OSAKA, Japan (R) — APEC-mania has even spread to Osaka's entertainment district. When the serious business of negotiating Asia-Pacific free trade is over each day, delegates to this year's annual gathering of the APEC forum in Osaka need only walk 10 minutes to a neon-lit collection of restaurants, bars, massage houses and pinball parlours to unwind. However, there are some traps for the unwary. One massage house proudly displayed a sign outside reading "one dollar for 40 minutes". The catch is when the time comes to pay the bill. Foreign currency is not accepted and the house exchange rate is 10,000 Yen to the dollar compared with the dollar's real value at present of around 100 Yen.

Chinese student offered free plastic surgery

SHANGHAI (R) — A Chinese student who was nearly deprived of a higher education because of his ugly face has been offered free plastic surgery by a Shanghai clinic, the Wen Hui Bao daily reported. Yang Hongwei achieved high grades in a university entrance examination this year but was repeatedly refused admittance to colleges because his face was ill-proportioned and looked weird. Lanzhou University in northwest China finally accepted him after wide-spread media coverage of his dilemma. The Wen Hui Bao said the Shanghai clinic had offered him free surgery to help him overcome his inferiority complex and psychological distress caused by his ugliness, the paper said.

Cyprus pensioner behind bars over fruit row

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot who tried to stop a pensioner stealing fruit from a carob tree was hit over the head by the thief with a crowbar and then, after staggering to a nearby motorway, was struck by a car, police said. The 27-year-old victim is in critical condition with head injuries. His ordeal started when he found the 70-year-old taking carobs, which are a substitute for chocolate, from his trees and demanded that he stop. The older man hit him with an iron bar and, when he tried to call police on a mobile telephone, hit him again. Reaching the motorway, the victim was struck by a passing car. The pensioner is in custody on suspicion of attempted murder.

Children's character Noddy up for sale in Britain

LONDON (R) — The copyright to the works of children's author Enid Blyton, creator of the characters Noddy and Big Ears, was put up for sale, with pundits expecting it to fetch a multi-million dollar figure. Accountants' price waterhouse said it invited offers for Danell Waters Ltd, which owns the copyright, and whose major shareholders are descendants of the British author. It said a number of major media companies had already expressed an interest in acquiring it.

Actress-model released from hospital

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Actress-model Anna Nicole Smith was released from hospital Sunday after a week of treatment for "an adverse reaction" to unspecified medication, her publicist said Monday. Before going home, the publicist added, Ms. Smith will be "convalescing at a private location."

6 more Russians killed in Chechenya

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechen separatists have killed six Russian soldiers and wounded nine in Chechenya in the past 24 hours, the Russian military command in the breakaway Caucasus republic said Wednesday.

The command, cited by ITAR-TASS news agency, said two Russian soldiers and a policeman were killed in a grenade attack Tuesday near Alkhan Yurt, some 12 kilometres southwest of the Chechen capital Grozny. Six soldiers were wounded in the attack.

Chechen separatists also killed two Russian transport policemen at a railway station in Gudermes, 35 kilometres east of Grozny, the

command said.

Fighting was most intense near the southwestern villages of Alkhan Yurt, Orekhovo, Stary Achkhoy and Gekhi. ITAR-TASS reported, adding that Russian troops also came under fire in Grozny.

Officials loyal to Chechen independence leader Dzhokhar Dudayev said earlier that Russian forces killed two Chechen civilians and wounded three others in the rebel-held villages of Achkhoy-Martan, Orekhovo and Stary Achkhoy Tuesday.

The sources, cited by Interfax News Agency, said Russian artillery forces had opened fire 49 times in the

past 24 hours.

The villages of Dargo and Beni in the southeastern district of Vedeno also came under fire, the officials said, adding that Russian helicopter gunships carried out four attacks in the Achkhoy-Martan and Shali areas.

There was no independent confirmation of the casualty figures. A demilitarisation accord signed on July 30 has been frequently violated by both sides.

Around 30,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since December, when Russian troops launched an air and ground blitz against Chechen independence fighters.

Gunman kills Taiwanese politician

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A gunman shot and killed a Taiwanese politician Wednesday, sparking fears of social disorder ahead of legislative elections in December.

Police said an unidentified man fired five shots at Wu Ho-Sung, the speaker of the Kaohsiung County Council in southern Taiwan, as he returned to his car after attending a friend's funeral.

Mr. Wu, 43, was shot in the chest and head, possibly with a pistol, and was pronounced dead in a nearby hospital, police said.

Wang Chun-Sheng, a Kaohsiung police chief, said there was no evidence linking the murder to the upcoming election. But Taiwan television station said there was widespread speculation that the killing was politically motivated.

Mr. Wu wielded great influence in Kaohsiung politics and had campaigned for ruling Nationalist Party candidates contesting the Dec. 2 election.

The suspected gunman fled in a car and police were questioning Mr. Wu's colleagues and relatives for clues to his identity.

Mr. Wu, a Nationalist, was the first local councillor to be killed so close to an election.

He was first elected to the council in 1982 and became speaker in 1994 after four years as vice speaker.

Interior Minister Huang Kun-Huei said last week that police would step up security measures for the election.

Some Taiwanese politicians are suspected of having links with organised criminal gangs who mobilise voters and financial support. The government has urged voters not to back candidates suspected of having links with criminals.

Canada premier is not keen for nation to become a republic

CANBERRA (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, battling an ongoing secessionist movement in Quebec province, said Wednesday he did not want to open another trouble front by pushing for a republic.

"I have other problems at this moment," Mr. Chretien said after talks with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, who wants Australia to become a republic by 2001.

"I have to deal with problems in Quebec, with those who want to separate. I don't want to have the monarchists on my back, too," Mr. Chretien said.

Voters in French-speaking Quebec last month narrowly voted against seceding from Canada, by the wafer-thin margin of 50.56 per cent.

Mr. Chretien said he had closely followed Australia's republican debate. Australia and Canada, both members of the British Commonwealth, have parliamentary systems but retain Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state.

"The monarchy is not a

problem in Canada at this moment, we have other problems to debate," Mr. Chretien said.

Mr. Keating told reporters Australia's move towards becoming a republic was important for its push for a larger role in Asia and stemmed from a changing society as an increasing number of immigrants came from Asian countries.

"In the culture of the new Australia, an identity and a sense of identity, an independence of identity, has emerged here quite strongly," Mr. Keating said.

"We live near very large and old societies which are different from us, such as Indonesia, and to approach them and to be a member of the community nations in this direct part of the world, I don't think we can be there as some sort of constitutional derivative of Britain."

Mr. Chretien Wednesday refused to comment on allegations Canada had spied on friendly countries, but said the country's spy agencies must obey the

law.

"I make no comment about it," he told reporters after meeting Mr. Keating.

Mr. Chretien said he was not briefed on the daily operations of Canada's spy agencies but added: "They have to act within the law."

A former spy with Canada's electronic espionage agency, the Communications Security Establishment (CSE), said in a television interview Sunday that Canada had spied on friendly countries, including Mexico, Japan and South Korea.

CSE specialises in electronic espionage, monitoring radio and other transmissions. Mexico and Japan have reportedly lodged official protests with Canada.

Asked how he would respond, Mr. Chretien said: "I don't know if it's true or not true, that's what I will tell them."

Mr. Chretien is due to leave Australia Thursday for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders forum in the Japanese city of Osaka.

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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin (left) shakes hands with soldiers of the Tula Paratrooper Division during his visit to the Tula region. Mr. Chernomyrdin, the leader of Our Home Is Russia party, was campaigning for the parliamentary elections (AFP photo)

Grachev: Russia not ready to meet CFE obligations

MOSCOW (R) — Russia is not ready to carry out obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) pact with the west because this would ruin Moscow's defence capability, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Wednesday.

"We are not ready at present to carry out provisions of the treaty. This especially concerns flank limitations," he told a news conference.

"If we carry out the treaty in full, this would completely rule out the possibility of maintaining a minimum of security," Gen. Grachev said.

The 1990 CFE treaty faces a Nov. 17 deadline for implementation, with Russia and the West still struggling to find a compromise on what was initially regarded as the cornerstone of post-cold war European security.

For the past two years Moscow has pushed for changes to the treaty because it wants to deploy more military hardware on its northern and southern flanks than the treaty allows.

NATO offered in September to go some way to meet Russia's demands, exempting some Russian flank zones in the north and south from treaty limits. But Russia wants more concessions, especially on its southern border in the volatile Caucasus region.

Pro-Abacha demonstrations spread in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Demonstrators took to the streets in several Nigerian states in support of the embattled government of military ruler General Sani Abacha, local media reported Wednesday.

People in northern Nigeria said anti-Western feelings were running high in the government's face-off with the international community over the execution last Friday of nine minority rights activists including writer Ken Saro-Wiwa.

State television said that in Makurdi, central Nigeria, hundreds of people carrying placards marched through the main streets Tuesday chanting slogans against Western nations.

The independent Guardian newspaper said similar protests, which started in Ilorin, central Nigeria and Calabar in the southeast Monday, had spread to Kaduna, Niger and Katsina states in the north and Edo state in the mid-west.

"There haven't been any ugly incidents but people are saying Britain and America don't like Nigeria and we should retaliate," said Aminu Abubakar, a school teacher in Kaduna.

Nigerian rights groups and many ordinary people have condemned the hangings. The pro-government demonstrations looked similar to protests organised by Gen. Abacha supporters in the past to show solidarity whenever his administration is in trouble.

There has been no easing of pressure on the west African nation since Saro-Wiwa and his associates were hanged after the government ratified the death sentence on them by a tribunal for last year's murder of four pro-government Ogoni tribal chiefs.

The Commonwealth, which was holding its summit in Auckland in New Zealand at the time, immediately suspended Nigeria's membership and said it would face expulsion unless it cleaned up its human rights record and released other political prisoners.

In Wellington, New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger and South African President Nelson Mandela Wednesday stepped up the pressure by raising the issue of oil sanctions with British Prime Minister John Major.

Mr. Mandela told reporters they had contacted Mr. Major by telephone and would try to talk to U.S. President Bill Clinton this weekend to discuss the issue.

"It is easy for us who are not involved in any trade with Nigeria to insist, as I tried to do this morning with John Major, that he is the person who can actually tighten the squeeze around Nigeria by adopting oil sanctions," he said.

Britain exported more than £450 million (about \$700 million) worth of goods to Nigeria last year, according to British embassy figures.

British High Commissioner to Nigeria Thorold Masefield has been recalled home as have been many other envoys in Lagos. Nigeria has similarly recalled its ambassadors in retaliation.

The government and Nigerian media have also launched blistering attacks on Britain.

In a boost to the military government, Anglo-Dutch

Sri Lanka claims more rebel deaths; puts off polls

COLOMBO (R) — Closing in on the rebel stronghold of Jaffna, Sri Lanka's army Wednesday claimed more heavy Tamil Tiger guerrilla casualties and the government put off local polls in the North region by up to a year.

The army said Tamil Tiger guerrilla radio traffic it intercepted indicated the rebels took a beating in battles with thousands of troops closing in on Jaffna City.

The Tamil Tigers, fighting since 1983 for a Tamil homeland in the island's north and east in a war that has taken 50,000 lives, claimed they killed several soldiers and damaged an army battle tank in frontal and flank assaults Tuesday.

While the fighting raged, the presidential secretariat said in a statement Wednesday that provincial council polls in the east scheduled for Thursday had been postponed by a year.

Similar elections in the northern province, due in February, had been put off till December 1996, it said.

Elections for the two councils, set up to devolve power to minority Tamils and meet their demands for autonomy, have been repeatedly postponed due to the presence of the rebels, who control much of the north and are active in the east.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a day after pulling out of beleaguered Jaffna City, appealed Wednesday to the government and guerrillas to protect the few civilians left in the rebel stronghold.

"We are appealing to everyone that if some combat is going to take place, all precautions are taken in order to protect the few civilians left," Gerard Peytrignet, ICRC's head of delegation for Sri Lanka, told Reuters television.

The government has said it was sending stocks of food, medicine and roofing material for refugees from the fighting — estimated to be between 300,000 and 400,000 — with the help of local and foreign aid agencies.

A military spokesman said two army divisions making parallel advances on Jaffna resumed their push at dawn Wednesday.

Rebel casualties, dead and wounded, were expected to be high in Tuesday's fighting as the army advanced against rebel resistance using heavy artillery and tank support, he said.

"(Rebel radio) transmissions monitored indicated that terrorists suffered heavy casualties," he said.

"Troops were progressing southwards cautiously due to enemy mines and moderate resistance. Terrorists' heavy machine gun and mortar fire delayed the advance for a few hours."

One soldier was killed and 32 were wounded in the action.

The military said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels launched a flank attack with mortars and machine guns from across a shallow lagoon on troops of 51 division, advancing on the eastern axis, to stall the army's advance.

The army, which now controls the northern suburbs of Jaffna after a month-long offensive, captured the LTTE's main political headquarters on the outskirts of the town Monday.

The army's 52nd Division, moving on the western flank, captured a large rebel training camp in the suburb of Urumpirai, about five kilometres north-east of Jaffna City.

Travellers from Jaffna said the army Tuesday captured the suburb of Thinnaveli 1.6 kilometres from the town centre.

"The LTTE forces intercepted the Sri Lankan forces at Kondavil and Irupalai (Monday)," an LTTE statement from London said. "In the battle that followed a Sri Lankan battle tank was damaged and several soldiers were killed." Seven rebels died in the action.

The ICRC pulled out of Jaffna Tuesday to Point Pedro, 50 kilometres away, saying Jaffna was about to become a major battle-ground between the guerrillas and government troops.

No candidates emerge yet in Haiti elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide have become increasingly impatient that he be allowed to run for re-election next month despite a constitutional ban on a second term.

A day before a midnight Wednesday deadline, Mr. Aristide's Lavalas Party had still not named a candidate for the Dec. 17 election, but whomever Mr. Aristide names is expected to win easily. A recent wave of violent protest has strengthened popular support for the president.

At least six people have been killed since nationwide street protests erupted Saturday when Mr. Aristide delivered an angry speech at the funeral of his cousin, slain lawmaker Jean-Hubert Feuillie. What began as a citizen's disarmament campaign soon gave way to generalised protests as many Aristide supporters hurled angry threats at any candidate who might come forward to succeed him.

In the provincial city of Gonaives, where four people died in protests, residents took to the streets again Tuesday to demand that U.N. soldiers "go home" for allegedly firing on a crowd of demonstrators.

A U.N. spokesman said peacekeepers fired twice in the air Monday after four people died in rioting. Another 34 people were injured in the melee that left army supporters tied up and a dozen buildings razed.

"We want Aristide forever. If any candidate tries to take Aristide's place, he will die and there will be a revolution. We have our leader already," said Francky Joseph, 28.

Joseph, who conducted weapons searches at a barricade made of burning tires last weekend, said no candidate — even one endorsed by Aristide — would be acceptable.

"There is no one else who can lead Haiti besides president Aristide," he said.

Haitian law forbids a president from seeking consecutive terms. But many Aristide supporters say he was cheated out of more than half of his five-year term by a 1991 military coup that toppled him from power. Mr. Aristide was reinstated one year ago with the help of international military forces.

Nepal authorities call off avalanche rescue despite reports of missing

KATHMANDU (AFP) — Nepalese authorities called off rescue operations Wednesday in the country's worst avalanche disaster in history despite reports that many more were missing.

"As of today, all rescue operations will be stopped but will be resumed if requested by the families of the missing or dead trekkers," said Lieutenant Colonel Bal Bahadur Thapa, head of the rescue operation.

Asked about an Italian Foreign Ministry statement from Rome which said 114 Italians remained missing, Col. Thapa said, "They may have come to Nepal for trekking but we have no record on them so no comment."

A series of weekend avalanches near Mount Everest has left more than 50 people dead by official count, but the unofficial toll from various rescue sources is more than 100.

Rescuers Wednesday evacuated an additional 76 people, bringing the total number of people rescued since the weekend to 517, including 238 foreigners.

"We combed the Everest region to the Kanchanjunga foothills in the far northeast and Dhaulagiri main peak areas in the northwest, by air, covering a distance of 600 square kilometres (240 square miles)," Col. Thapa said.

Georgian warlord held on gun charges

TBILISI (AP) — A once-powerful warlord who lost parliamentary immunity after an election defeat was arrested by police early Wednesday on gun and drug charges, the prosecutor's office said.

Dzhaba Ioseliani, whom authorities suspect of involvement in an assassination attempt against Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, was arrested at his country house at 3 a.m. by police who said they had found guns and drugs in his office.

A former Shevardnadze ally, Mr. Ioseliani was considered the second most powerful person in Georgia before he lost his parliamentary seat in elections on Nov. 5.

The prosecutor general issued a warrant for Mr. Ioseliani's arrest the day after the Aug. 29 car bomb attack against Mr. Shevardnadze, who barely escaped with his life in the explosion.

But Mr. Ioseliani, who enjoyed immunity from prosecution as a lawmaker in this former Soviet republic, remained at large until his arrest on drug and gun charges.

Mr. Ioseliani, 69, has denied any involvement in the attack on Mr. Shevardnadze.

UNHCR: 50 million forced from homes worldwide

GENEVA (AP) — War, atrocities and persecution have forced a record 50 million people from their homes around the world, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Wednesday.

But the nature of the world's refugee problem is changing, with displaced people increasingly staying in their own countries, the agency said in a report the State of the World's Refugees.

The number of people classified as refugees — a status technically accorded only to displaced people outside their home country — has actually declined to 14.4 million from its peak of 18.2 million when UNHCR presented its last report in 1993.

But the number of internally displaced has skyrocketed. The total number uprooted has increased six million from the 44 million reported in 1993.

"Although the number of conflicts taking place now is about the same as 10 or 15 years ago, the nature of those conflicts — almost all are internal — and the scale of civilian casualties, destruction and displacement have shifted dramatically," UNHCR said.

The agency said it currently is caring for 27 million people, up from 17 million in 1990. Much of the problem has resulted from the breakup of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, but Africa has been hard hit as well.

In fact, Africa has 6.7 million refugees, nearly two million more than Asia and five million more than Europe. Africa also has more internally displaced people under UNHCR's care — two million — than any other continent. Asia has 1.8 million and Europe 1.7 million.

"The end of the cold war generated a strong sense of optimism about the international refugee situation," the report said. "With the rivalry of the superpowers over, it was thought, many conflicts would be resolved."

In the event, almost precisely the opposite has happened.

But with the end of the cold war, the world's view of national sovereignty changed, and the United Nations has increasingly been able to help displaced people in their own countries, the report said.

The picture also has brightened since 1990 by the return of 9 million refugees to their homes — in places like Mozambique, Central America and Cambodia.

Among the major problem countries it cited are:

— The republics of former Yugoslavia, where 3.7 people have been displaced or otherwise affected by war.

— Rwanda and Burundi, where more than 2 million refugees are part of the largest concentration of displaced people in the world.

— Caucasian states of the former Soviet Union, including Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, with 1.5 million people displaced.

— Some 2.5 million Afghan refugees remain in Pakistan and Iran even though 3 million have gone home during the past three years.

Atlantis, Mir dock 392 km above Earth

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — Astronauts guided shuttle Atlantis to the Russian space station Mir and docked early Wednesday, neatly executing the risky maneuver 245 miles (392 kilometres) above Earth.

It was the second linkup of Atlantis and Mir, but was considered more complicated — and dangerous — than the first because of the 15-foot (4.5-metre) docking tunnel jutting out of the shuttle's cargo bay.

Shuttle Commander Kenneth Cameron pulled within 170 feet (51 metres), then 30 feet (9 metres), of Mir as both spacecraft hurtled around Earth at 17,500 mph (28,000 kph). All the while, Russian voices could be heard on Mir's radio.

Commander Cameron slowly steered Atlantis up under Mir, avoiding the station's maze of solar panels.

Docking occurred right on time — 1:27 a.m. est (0627 GMT) — easing the tension in space and on the ground.

A collision could have breached the two pressurised spacecraft and killed all eight men aboard.

Chris Hadfield, a Canadian astronaut aboard Atlantis, called the docking "a ballet of concentrated effort."


About 50 NASA personnel, including astronauts headed to Mir next year and managers of the planned international space station, watched the docking on huge TV screens at the Russian mission control.

On Tuesday, the five astronauts installed the docking tunnel in Atlantis' cargo bay, clearing the way for the linkup.

Mr. Hadfield was the key player Tuesday, deftly lifting the tunnel from Atlantis with the shuttle robot arm and positioning it just inches above a docking ring in the cargo bay.

Wednesday's docking hinged on Commander Cameron, a three-time space flier, Marine and former test pilot.

Like the first docking by Atlantis in June, this one required perfect timing, perfect speed and perfect alignment. Commander Cameron could not see the end of his docking port while closing in on the sprawling, 120-plus-ton station, however, and had to rely on remote camera views, radar and lasers.



PAKISTAN CULTURAL TROUPE

ON THE HAPPY OCCASION OF THE 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS OF HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN, THE EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN,

IN COOPERATION WITH THE JORDANIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE, HAS ORGANIZED A DANCE PERFORMANCE BY A PAKISTANI CULTURAL TROUPE AT THE ROYAL CULTURAL CENTRE AT 7 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 17, 18 AND 20

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A matter of urgency

THE INTERNATIONAL Court of Justice has recently started deliberations on the legality of the use of nuclear weapons. Thanks to the World Health Organisation (WHO), which brought up the subject before the court for a legal opinion three years ago, the international community could soon have the benefit of a verdict by the international tribunal on a matter that has threatened the very existence of mankind. While nuclear powers insist that the deployment of nuclear weapons does not violate international law, non-nuclear states are united in their quest for total prohibition of the use or stockpiling of all nuclear arms. This division is understood given the vested interest of the nuclear powers in the development, possession and use of nuclear arms. With the world court on the verge of rendering a declaratory judgement, the comity of nations on both sides of the fence is poised to benefit from any such legal opinion.

The WHO, however, is not the first international organisation to raise the issue. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva has long led a campaign to declare the deployment of nuclear bombs as contrary to the relevant Geneva Conventions of 1949. The ICRC concern was given an added expression during the Diplomatic Conference in the late seventies that articulated and adopted the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions. Given the wide interpretation accorded to these international humanitarian norms as outlawing the resort to nuclear weapons during war, major nuclear powers have refrained from ratifying the first additional protocol for fear that their adherence to it would deprive them from the option to deploy nuclear and thermonuclear bombs in war.

There is no doubt, therefore, that the WHO has picked up where the ICRC has left off and the two international bodies are united in the effort to declare the use of such mass destruction weapons as unlawful under current international humanitarian law. There is no doubt also that all mass destruction weapons including nuclear, biological and chemical ones are illegal since they do not discriminate between combatants and civilians. The nature and scope of all these weapons is such that their use should be viewed as anathema to all humanitarian principles.

Hopefully, the world court will put this issue to rest by declaring all nuclear weapons illegal. Most probably, though, the court would tread a fine line by making a distinction between tactical and strategic nuclear bombs, legalising the first but outlawing the latter. Since a declaratory judgement is by nature non-binding, the deep division within the international community is likely to persist no matter how the court goes on this critical issue.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

UNDAUNTED BY the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the acts of terrorist groups in Israel, the peace process will go ahead, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Wednesday. Similarly, the forces of darkness and instigators of street violence and the powers behind them in the Arab World will not be able to prevent Jordan from seizing the opportunity in seeking progress in the era of peace, neither will these forces stop the Palestinians from pursuing their efforts towards building a Palestinian state after the withdrawal of Israeli forces, said Sultan Al Hattab. Referring to the withdrawal by Israeli forces from Jenin, the writer said that it was a step in the long march for freedom for all the Palestinian towns, something that was not to the taste of extremists in Israel or those Arabs who displayed pessimism over the Oslo agreement. He said some forces hostile to peace on the Arab side are frustrated with the gradual establishment of security and stability, and could resort to instigation of violence and cause internal disturbances because the peace situation is not in their own selfish interest.

YASSER ZAATRE, a columnist in Al Doustour, discussed the situation in South Lebanon where resistance groups continue the war on the Israeli occupation forces, and paid tribute to those who, he said, are trying to liberate their lands. Discounting a widespread belief that the Lebanese resistance is merely a tool in the hands of the Syrians in their negotiations with Israel, the writer said even if this is true fighting off the occupation forces in Lebanon is an honourable act, to liberate the southern sector of the country, which is no less important than the Golan Heights.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

A birthday wish: The best Jordanian is a blest Jordanian

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's speech last week, addressed not only to those attending but to the nation at large and to nations beyond, is essentially about self-recognition. Literally and metaphorically, explicitly and by implication, the address, which reflects a great deal of subtlety and foresight, is extremely rich and telling in its assessment of the status quo and sense of what ought to be done. Ultimately, however, it is an appeal to Jordanians to be a little more aware of what has been and is happening, a little more appreciative, and a little more expressive and assertive. And this is not too much to ask.

Self-recognition is a rich and complex concept, of course. One of its many meanings, a meaning brought home to each and every one of us once a year at least on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty's birthday, has to do with appreciation of achievement. The King's birthday is "auspicious," I say, and special not only because it is significant to the both but, more interestingly I believe, because it is in many ways the birthday of the nation itself. The King has been forcefully present (and we hope he will continue to be so for a long time to come) since Jordan's independence, i.e. since its birth. The life of the country and the life of the King are, then, so interconnected and so intertwined that it is extremely hard to separate one from the other; and much of what we enjoy as Jordanians today, and what some of us take for granted, is a direct outcome of His Majesty's profound vision, his dedication to the mission, his wise leadership and his diligent efforts, with the active participation of his ever able and ever reliable assistant and partner, the Crown Prince. This is a fact we must all recognise.

Since the birth of modern Jordan, not much more than half a century ago, a great deal has happened. The story of Jordan will go down in the bright pages of history as a country which has fought against all odds (geographic, demographic, political, historical, social, cultural, economic, etc.) not only to survive and stand on its feet firmly, but also to flourish, prosper and be a real example for others in the region and beyond.

The achievements are immense, and one can hardly do justice to them here. Be it at the concrete, somewhat blatant level or at a more refined and subtle level, they are there speaking for themselves. Today, Amman and the other Jordanian towns and cities are a lot cleaner, healthier, more liveable and more beautiful not only than they were 20 or even 10 years ago but also than most towns and cities in the region. There is hardly any village in the Kingdom (as small as 10 or 15 houses) without water and electricity, without a school and a clinic, and without a reasonable network of roads. Our educational system, be it at the school or university level, is decidedly more liberal, more open-minded, more experimental, more flexible and more effective and successful than nearly all systems in the neighbouring countries (despite our natural criticisms and reservations about it). The introduction of democracy to the country, and the speed with which it has been implemented, is surely a gigantic step; even though it has not evolved to reach the level we all aspire and even though many among us still gravely misunderstand it and abuse it (and this is all normal, for democracy is a process not a fixed system which can be applied and made perfect overnight), it has so far been working. Compare our political system at this particular moment in history with those in most (if not all) our sister countries and neighbours, many of whose governments still practice you all know what. Jordan's role in the peace process (be it with respect to the peace agreement with Israel or with respect to the gracious stance and support of the Palestinian brethren) is extremely enlightened, constructive and elegant.

One ought not to be ungrateful. Positive moves, steps, decisions and achievements have to be duly recognised. And I believe that every sensible, reasonable, commonsensical, realistic, intelligent and (above all) honest citizen in this nation must and does recognise.

But self-recognition also means understanding and awareness. Semantically, this is what the word "appreciation" also denotes. To "recognise" or "appreciate" is to truly comprehend, to see, and to feel the worth and value of something. Hence when we teach literary "appreciation" courses at our schools or universities, this is what we have in mind. The question to raise here is, how many people truly recognise, aptly understand and duly appreciate (three mental processes extremely dependent on one on the other, respectively) the happenings, changes, developments and achievements we are witnessing today? I say "truly," "aptly" and "duly." The answer is, very few. The point to emphasise here is that while we have made great strides, taken big steps and achieved much to be proud of,

we largely lack and miss the fitting and due recognition and appreciation of such strides, steps and achievements.

His Majesty is right to be upset and angry with those who take each and every opportunity to underestimate, undervalue, and trivialise what Jordan has accomplished — the "mice" who are out to annoy, subvert and sabotage. No society in today's world, including the most liberal and democratic, tolerates extremists, isolationists, secessionists and "enemies of life." But one is also upset and angry with those among us (equally subversive and destructive) who underestimate, undervalue, and trivialise our accomplishments when they are supposed to be, expected to be, and required to be doing just the opposite.

Let me illustrate through drawing on an analogy from literature. We all know the difference between poet and critic. The first produces a primary text which we call a poem; the other produces a secondary text which we call a critical essay. The poem in itself is beautiful, neat, and super; but when the critics (the good critic, that is) writes his piece on it, it looks more beautiful, greater and superior. As a result, the reader understands it more, appreciates it more and recognises its value and worth much more aptly and duly. While the greatest contribution goes to the poet, the critic nonetheless plays the crucial role of bringing it into life in the readers' mind. While some readers can understand the poem themselves, many depend on the critic to explain it. Jordan is the poem (created by its leadership and its people); the reader is the citizen (the so-called man in the street); and the critic is the teacher, the journalist, the media man, and everyone of us who is in a leading position. While Jordan as a poem is great, and while its citizen as a reader is honest and well-meaning; the failure in giving due appreciation is largely the critic's. If His Majesty vents a great deal of anger in the direction of the press and media; it is (in addition to giving ample room to some "mice" to gnaw and moan) all entrusted with explaining Jordan the "poem" fail to do so miserably. To put it more bluntly, many of our journalists, writers, TV presenters are shallow, superficial, hollow and boring. They themselves fail to understand and appreciate the exciting challenges of the times and the great breakthroughs and accomplishments. How can we expect them, alas, to excite and enlighten the man in the street who is so helplessly reliant on them for explanation and appreciation? We do a great deal of harm when we pay lip-service to our successes and achievements. They deserve better treatment.

The third meaning of self-recognition is suggested in what I have already been saying; namely, self-assessment and self-evaluation. This theme is strongly implicit in His Majesty's speech. We are at the threshold of a very exciting, very challenging and very new era? What are we to do to enable ourselves to live up to the challenge and rise to the occasion? What are our qualifications and what are our weaknesses? What must answer this question intelligently and honestly, if we are to thrive and excel, as I have faith we will?

During the past two years, I have been writing in my humble column in the illustrious Jordan Times precisely on this particular question. I have said much about the qualifications and much about the weaknesses. If I were to restate briefly what I have stated about these matters, I would say that our qualifications lie in the excellent potential of our individual and in the liberalism and progressiveness of our political system. As for our weaknesses, I would say that they boil down to mainly one: Mediocrity of performance. This is the monster from which many of our problems spring. When are we going to understand (truly understand) that one's worth is tied to one's performance, not to one's potential or to what one thinks of one's self? Performance, ladies and gentlemen. It does not matter how much you have in your head, in your spirit, in your mind or in your pocket. What matters is what you do, what you produce, what you show.

His Majesty has the right to feel proud of his performance, and to celebrate his birthday on this basis. The birthday present he expects from his people in this happy occasion is, I believe, simple: It is that each and every Jordanian does his work devotedly and efficiently, no more and no less. More than poems and songs on this happy occasion, we want deeds that speak louder than words. This is what belonging means, what patriotism is about and what true citizenship is. Let our motto be (a motto derived from the performance of His Majesty and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan) in the days to come: The best Jordanian is the blest Jordanian.

By Flora Lewis

Peres is right to pursue security through peace

PARIS — Israel's acting prime minister, Shimon Peres, has been denied by his own people as a visionary. But he is fully aware of the enormous extra difficulties he faces in the drive for peace without his former rival and then political partner, the slain Yitzhak Rabin.

His stunned face in the aftermath of the assassination showed it. There was shock and grief, but beyond that, in a man never accused of modesty, the kind of humble awe of unexpected responsibility expressed by President Harry Truman taking over from Franklin D. Roosevelt, according to a new book based on Truman's letters and notes. This is not to compare the men but the situation.

When I saw him in Amman and again in Jerusalem recently, Mr. Peres was euphoric. He has clear ideas of how to forge ahead, step by step although he cannot deny it spell it out, and where he expects to arrive. He speaks of an essential triangle, Israel-Palestinians-Jordan, and he likes to use the metaphor of Benelux, three distinct cultures and countries living in fruitful symbiosis.

But his biggest problem will be Israel, and that is what he has suddenly had to realise. He has been the accelerator, Mr. Rabin the

brake, as the Israeli engine for peace chugged steadily forward. He produced the ideas and diplomatic breakthroughs, Mr. Rabin the essential domestic support and confidence.

In the near term, Israeli horror and revulsion at the murder will reinforce his efforts to gather the divided nation behind his unquestioned determination to fulfill the promise. He will be the prime target of virulent fanatics now.

It should help him that the opposition offers just that — opposition and dire warnings, no real alternative.

There is too much time to go, however, too many major obstacles ahead for the solidarity to distress to carry him through. He will need help to replace the reassurance that Mr. Rabin's tough record and rugged temperament provided. It will need to come not only from stricken Israelis but also from Arab leadership and the outside world, especially American Jewry.

Syria's President Hafez Assad told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Damascus recently that Mr. Rabin was too fearful of Israeli critics. Last week showed Mr.

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A mixed eight years for Tunisia's Ben Ali

By Abdelaziz Barrouhi
Reuters

TUNIS — Democracy, modernisation, stability — these words are familiar ones in the lexicon of Tunisian officials to describe the eight years since President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali came to power.

And as Tuesday's anniversary of Ben Ali's arrival in office — known in Tunisia as "The November 7 change" — fell many Tunisians and foreign diplomats have praised the stability of a country whose neighbours are violent Algeria and unpredictable Libya.

Tunisia is one of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) favourites. A recent IMF report called the North African country "a prime example of the successful transformation of an economy from one heavily regulated by government to one based on market orientation."

But Tunis-based diplomats and opposition leaders say a price has been paid for this stability and growth, namely that expectations for the development of an open political society have not been met.

"Tunisia became a modern country with a performing and open economy and industrial and political stability," a West European ambassador told Reuters.

His only reservation, added, was that the price of political stability had sometimes been "some excesses."

Ahead of the November 7 celebrations, Amnesty International said it was concerned by "serious and systematic human rights violations."

The London-based human rights organisation's concerns were fuelled by the crushing of the country's fundamentalist movement in 1992 as well as by the arrest last month of Mohammad Moad, president of the Democratic Socialists Movement (MDS).

Mr. Moad was charged with having "secret ties" with a foreign country. Diplomats say that country is Libya.

Authorities have also embarked this month on stripping the parliamentary immunity from one of Mr. Moad's lieutenants, Khemaïs Chammani, and has started legal proceedings against his wife, Alya Cherif.

Both are accused of having disclosed secrets of the investigation into Mr. Moad's case. Mr. Cherif is a member of the defence team.

But Tunisian officials, stressing that their country is not yet "a perfect democracy," says such cases are not aimed against MDS activities but at individuals.

They add that in recent years they have prosecuted bureaucrats guilty of human rights abuses and have made efforts to educate the police.

"Between 1988 and March 31, 1995, the justice ministry has registered 302 cases (of police) abuses... and these statistics confirm that the system is fully committed to the respect of law," says Sadok Chaabane, the justice minister who is also a professor of law.

"Critics, particularly in the West... look only at the empty half part of the glass, not at the full half," he adds in a new book entitled "Ben Ali's Way to Pluralism."

President Ben Ali, in a gesture characteristic of his rule, on Saturday kept alive hopes of change by pardoning Hama Hammami and Mohammad Kilani, jailed left-wing leaders of the banned Tunisian Communist Workers' Party (POCT).

But officials make no secret of their intention to keep a tight grip on power and to control the pace of democratic reforms to secure what they say is the country's stability and development in an unstable region.

They stress that the transition to democracy has already shown a significant result: For the first time in 1994, opposition won 19 seats in the 163-member parliament, and Mr. Ben Ali was reelected unopposed with the support of the seven legal, but weak, political parties and by all professional organisations.

LETTERS

Turkey uncompromising on Iraq's sovereignty

To the Editor:

IN THE article entitled "The spread of Kurdish nationalism: A new stage in its development," reprinted in the Jordan Times issue of Nov. 9-10 from the Middle East International, Turkey is mentioned with several other countries in a manner which leaves doubt as to what our policy is. Turkish policy as regards Iraq and the PKK, is very clear, as stated in a recent speech to Parliament on Nov. 3, by Deniz Baykal, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Turkey. I am surprised that the speech found no reflection in the Jordanian press.

In his speech, Mr. Baykal stated, in summary, that: "We have always favoured the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. It is our wish to see that this country abide by the United Nations Security Council resolutions and so reestablish its sovereignty within its borders as soon as possible."

"People living in northern Iraq should not forget that they are the citizens of the Iraqi state. They must be prepared to take part in an Iraqi administration as the citizens of a democratic country when Iraq regains its sovereignty. We sincerely hope that our neighbour Iraq will evolve within a democratic process that grants equal rights to all its citizens. When I say 'All the citizens' I wish to stress that in Iraq there are millions of Turkish speaking people of Turkish origin. The majority of them live in northern Iraq. One cannot talk about northern Iraq or even Iraq without taking into account the Turcomans. It is wrong to refer to northern Iraq as an exclusively Kurdish region, where hundreds of thousands of Turcomans, Arabs, Assyrians and Chaldeans live...."

Ambassador Aykut Cetingir
Charge d'Affaires
Turkish Embassy
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



Society on the Move

Investments in the future take on various shades

Despite the heavy rains and cold last Friday hundreds of families turned out to attend the annual Umm El Hussein Charity Bazaar and Family Fun Day. Held under the patronage of HRH Princess Basma, the following embassies, consulates as well as the United Nations participated in one way or another in selling their national handicrafts, cooking up traditional foods, and staging performances: Australia, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United States. The bazaar, which last year started the tradition of adding in an international food fair, is organised annually by members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan in support of the activities of the Umm El Hussein Orphanage which was established in 1951. The orphanage, named after the late Queen Mother, Zein Al Sharaf, provides for all the educational and social needs of orphans aged 6 to 18, and currently houses 138 students. All proceeds from the bazaar go to benefit the orphanage which depends on this annual event as its major source of income. Some members of the Hispanic diplomatic corps were overheard a few days later comparing notes on how their sales had fared. The vote was a unanimous "Muy Bien!"



HRH Princess Sarvath, accompanied by her daughter Farah (wearing plaid), chats with a youngster while stopping by the Pakistani booth at the Umm Al Hussein Charity Bazaar last Friday. The boy is flanked by Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Ali Sarwar Naqvi and his wife Meher

CHAIN REACTION: Just prior to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, Parliament passed a law amending the status of the former Investment Promotion Department as an agency of the Ministry of Industry and Trade to a separate and autonomous body now called the Investment Promotion Corporation. The former-turned-new body has been under the directorship of Assem Hindawi for just over one year. Following the MENA summit, however, Taleb Rifai, who was Jordan commercial representative to the U.S. and then designated to work as the head of the technical committee for the MENA summit, was appointed to head the new independent corporation. It is expected that most of the more than 40-member staff of the original department will be retained in the new entity. Mr. Hindawi has been appointed instead to head the Industrial Estates Corporation, where its former director Fayez Suheimat has moved on to the new JD 20 million oil exploring venture, the National Oil Company. The obvious result is that in this case of musical chairs left no one out in the cold.

NEW 'STAGE' DIRECTOR: Ending the cultural saga is the news that Iyad Kanan, former director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), has indeed been appointed only as advisor to the Minister of Culture and not to the Prime Minister as some might have expected him to be. But his successor at the RCC, is, as was predicted, former Ministry of Culture Secretary General Mahmoud Fadil Tal. While Mr. Kanan has opted to take an extended leave until the beginning of the new year, Mr. Tal has assumed his new post right away.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY: One of Mr. Tal's first functions as the new director will be to host La Folia Quartet of Spain tonight at the RCC for a single performance of 16th, 17th and 18th century baroque music. Under the directorship of award-winning flautist Pedro Bonet, the

quartet will feature voice, flute, harpsichord and strings. La Folia Quartet was formed in 1977 and has won the Golden Palm Award and received an honorary mention at the Valencia Film Festival for their music in the soundtrack of "Baltazar el Cuatrero" this year. The first half of the programme will be dedicated to Spanish baroque pieces of the 16th and 17th century by Juan de Naves, Bartolome de Selva, Juan Hidalgo, Clemente Imaña, Diego Ortiz, and Felipe Lluc. During the second half, the quartet will play 18th century pieces by Bach, Handel and Pepsusch. The performers will be playing on instruments reconstructed from 17th century Italian models. The event marks the start of the Spanish embassy's cultural season which next month brings to Jordan world class flamenco star Blanca del Rey among other top Spanish performers. Tonight's concert is being held under the patronage of Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania. Unfortunately, Queen Sofia of Spain, who was in Jordan to celebrate His Majesty King

Hussein's birthday, returned home early Wednesday to attend to a busy schedule of commitments, otherwise, it was near certain that she would have attended La Folia Quartet's Amman debut as baroque is said to be a favourite of hers. The event is being presented by the Spanish embassy in cooperation with the Instituto Cervantes and sponsorship by Freddy for Music.

A DUTCH DECORATION: Honours seem to be the order of the day for November. Here is one order you may not have read about. Anis Mouasher, the chairman of the board of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), was appointed an Officer in the Order of the Golden Ark of the Netherlands. The honour was presented to Mr. Mouasher by Prince Bernhard, the Grand Master of the Order of the Golden Ark and the father of Queen Beatrix, at the Soestdijk Palace in Amsterdam. The citation said that Mr. Mouasher was granted this honour for his long and special services for the conservation of nature, especially through the work of the RSCN. Mr. Mouasher had lectured in Amsterdam that same day on nature conservation work in Jordan. Established in 1972 by Prince Bernhard, the Order of the Golden Ark has been bestowed on several environmentalists, scientists and politicians including King Olaf of Sweden, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, Prince Henrik of Denmark and Sultan Qaboos of Oman. Mr. Mouasher says he shares the decoration with all his colleagues at the RSCN and members of the staff who worked hard to deserve it.

SOLID SAFETY: Another Jordanian won an environmental prize of sorts. This time it is Jamal Khalil Shamasat of the Jordan Cement Factories (JCF)/Rashidieh who has received the prestigious British Safety Council Safety Award in safety management at the Royal Society of Arts in London. Mr. Shamasat was one of 29 delegates from 18 countries who spent 10 weeks studying problem solving, decision making, fire protection, occupational health, advanced safety management and total loss control. In presenting the diplomas to the participants, Director General of the British Safety Council said, "In sending their delegates on this course, the organisation represented here have demonstrated a high regard for safety and, thereby, their sense of vitality, team work and quality." Now if the JCF could only do a little bit more about the dust pollution, Fuheis residents say, much more could be said about its regard for the health of its host community.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Locust brain uses vision — and maths — to avoid collisions

By Jane E. Allen
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Locusts — and probably other creatures — use complex mathematics in their eyes and brains to sense that an approaching object is getting too close and that it's time to get out of the way, scientists say.

Such technology is probably a decade off, he said. Mr. Laurent is part of a team of scientists who

found a mathematical function that explains how a locust's brain processes the size and speed of a potential threat. Their study appears in the latest issue of the journal Science.

"Detecting predators or detecting danger is a very general problem in nature and it concerns all animals, including us when we cross the street," Mr. Laurent said. "The problem is to first

recognise that an object is approaching, and the second is to react before it actually collides."

He said the retina at the back of the eye provides three pieces of critical information about an approaching object: the size of the image, the speed at which its edges are widening and how much the image is speeding up.

To find out what makes the locust act before the moment of collision, scientists put the 2-inch insect in front of a computer screen, covered one of its eyes and projected images that simulated an approaching object. The scientists recorded via an electrode how one single neuron, or brain cell, pulsed in response to the visual stimulus.

Scientists found a mathe-

matical quantity that peaks before the moment of collision and apparently triggers a warning to get out of the way, Mr. Laurent said.

However, "if the approach of the object is too fast," he said, "the reaction time is not long enough and the animal gets hit. That's why predators can survive. Nature evolves some sort of equilibrium so prey can avoid predators most times,

but sometimes get eaten so predators themselves can live."

Mr. Laurent said that although he's not an engineer, he could foresee a human vision system using a silicon-chip retina now being developed at his university. The retina, he said, would use principles derived from his experiment.

It would "combine inputs about the size of what it sees and the velocity of what it sees in a way that would allow a signal to be generated prior to an impending collision," he said.

Larry Abbott, a professor of biology at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, was enthusiastic about the findings.

Although it's hard to say how many other animals use

Biodepollution — a promising area

Today, man seems to have become aware of the harmful consequences of his activities on his environment and on his own health. Pollution is omnipresent and affects the atmosphere, just as much as the biosphere and the hydrosphere. Although, even in the recent past, it was possible to leave it up to nature to do its job, this is no longer possible nowadays. The substances released by our industries are often so large that they cannot be eliminated by the process of nature. So specially devised techniques have to be used to eliminate pollutants.

By Sylviane Robinet

PARIS — There are two possible strategies to fight pollution. Either by preventing action, that is to say by setting up clean technologies within industries, with the purpose of eliminating pollution within the production process itself, or by curative action, which eliminates pollution downstream from the manufacturing process. Seeking and developing clean technologies is one of the

major objectives of the European Eureka Project. These new technologies should finally make it possible for the automobile and chemicals industries to considerably reduce their polluting emissions and to fall in line with stringent regulations.

At the moment, three kinds of depollution techniques are available. These are physical processes, chemical or physico-chemical processes and biological processes. Biological processes, based on the use of micro-organisms (bacteria, fungi, algae, yeasts, etc.) are being developed thanks largely to the boom in biotechnologies. Indeed, thanks to research being carried out in biotechnology, a catalogue of micro-organisms is available today in which they are characterised and indexed according to the chemical reactions that they are likely to produce. The use of micro-organisms or other biological material such as enzymes in the food-processing industries has shown their reliability and effectiveness.

Biological processes increasingly appear as an alternative to chemical and physical methods which are often badly considered by public opinion as they leave

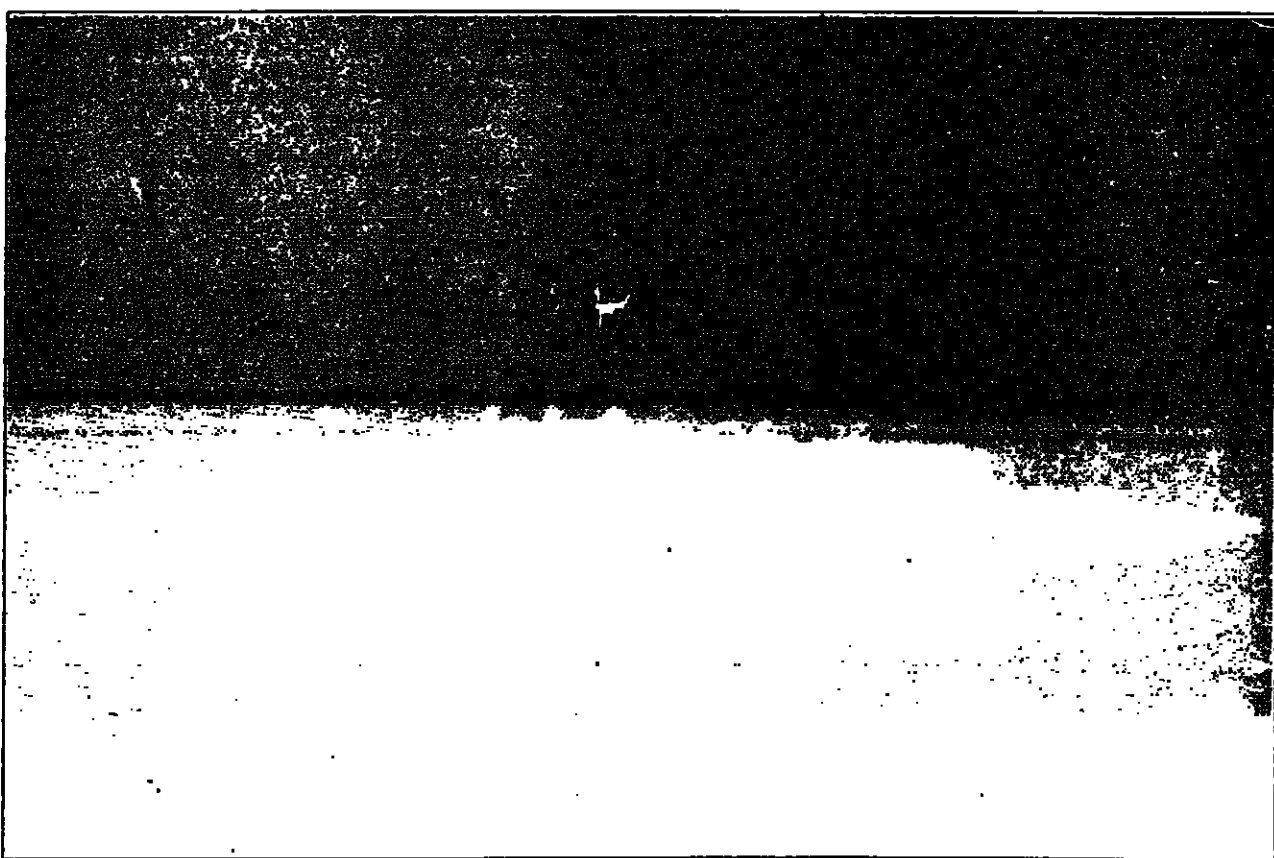
by-products which are difficult to turn to account. Another advantage of biodepollution is the low cost of the installations that it requires. Industrialists, who are placed under the constraints of the new standards established by the European Community are well aware of the advantage of this new technology which is relatively inexpensive and easy to install.

Encouraging results

For a long time, biotechnology, techniques came from know-how acquired with experience and not from a rigorous procedure based on theory and reasoning. Scientists are aware of the stakes represented by bioprocesses both from an economic and an ecological point of view and so they are trying to rationalise the phenomenon by contributing the theoretical bases that are indispensable for it to be applied on a large scale. For a few years now, processes for fighting water and soil pollution have been the subject of active research. Recently, scientists at the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) developed a depollution process for water contaminated by heavy metals such as chrome, nickel, cobalt, zinc, cadmium, lead and mercury. This technique is based on the property of certain

fibrous fungi to absorb metal cations in a water solution. Research carried out using the Rhizopus arrhizus mould has shown that the cellular wall of this fungus contains a large number of anionic sites which are able to very effectively absorb heavy metals present in water in the form of cations. Moreover, this process should make it possible to give value to the mycelium mud which is a by-product of the fermentation industries that produce enzymes, antibiotics or vitamins by the culture of fibrous fungi. Another highly promising process is biolixivation or bacterial lixiviation. This technique, which is well-known in hydro-metallurgy (10 per cent of copper produced at present in the world is extracted using this method), has existed for some time already. As early as the year 1,000 B.C., the peoples of the Mediterranean basin used bacteria to recover copper by draining mines. Studies are under way to improve this process and to adapt it for the depollution of muds, soils and sediments polluted by heavy metals.

The choice of a bioprocess is based on several criteria. First of all the nature of the pollutant has to be determined and the chemical form in which it occurs. Then the different kinds of



The Rhizopus arrhizus fungus avidly digests heavy metals in a water solution; a stroke of luck for the metallurgy industry

micro-organisms likely to metabolise it have to be sought (through a mechanism of energy-producing degradation or by integration into a synthesis process). This choice also depends on the technicality of the firm, the location of its activity, the concentration of the pollutants to be processed and the conditions that have to be met to obtain maximum depollu-

tion effectiveness (temperature, pH, source of energy, amount of biomass, toxic limits, etc.)

In the present state of affairs, bioprocesses are not a cure-all for depollution. There are numerous areas in which they cannot be used either because suitable strains have not yet been discovered, or because new ones would have to be creat-

ed by genetic modification. Treating the air and the soil are the areas which are the best-suited to the application of bioprocesses as the number of pollutants involved is limited, which makes it easier to identify them.

In the panel of techniques used to fight pollution today, biological processes are the minority but this technology is still in its early days. The results are highly encouraging, especially those obtained in waste-water processing and in dealing with the bad smells given off during sewage processing and agro-industries (animal husbandry, slaughtering and smelting) and the metallurgy and chemicals industries predict a fine future for biodepollution.

L'Actualite En France.

Electronic publishing

By Jean-Claude Elias

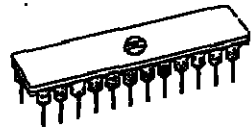
The recent release of a CD-ROM on Jordan on the occasion of the Amman 95 Economic Conference was undeniably a success. The Compact Disc — Read Only Memory is a device that is similar in format to the well-known music audio CD, but is intended to be used in a player that only works installed in a computer.

Publishing any work in electronic format is becoming more and more popular. It would not make any sense publishing a novel or a literary work in CD format (I do not take bets on the future), since the reading would be linear. On the other hand, the electronic system does bring many important features and facilities for work where search, indexing or cross-referencing is essential. A typical CD-ROM application for instance is dictionaries and encyclopedias.

The case of the CD-ROM on Jordan is also quite appropriate. Looking for a feature, a photograph or any piece of information on the Kingdom using a PC is faster, more efficient, more practical and... more enjoyable. Colour photographs particularly come alive on the screen. High resolution monitors able to display up to 16 million colours (no type here) produce images that are much sharper and true-to-life than the best TV set. Whenever a certain part of a CD-ROM is of special interest for a research or even for distribution on hard copy, the system allows easy printing of that part.

Naturally, enjoying a CD-ROM means having a PC equipped with a CD player, and having them both at hand, ready to work. Traditional books do not require additional devices or equipment to be read.

chip talk



We all know that PCs are everywhere. Moreover, one third of the machines currently sold in the U.S., and one quarter of those sold in Jordan come equipped with a CD player. This means that in less than five years, when most of the existing personal computer installations are renewed, the wide majority of homes and offices will have fast, easy access to CD-ROM players.

Still, the ideal setup would require the machine to be left permanently on, at least during daytime. This is not an unrealistic situation. Already computers fitted with fax cards must be always turned on in order to receive incoming messages. By the year 2000, virtually tomorrow, the industry will probably come up with a few other applications that would require the machines to be permanently available.

How long would it take till electronic publishing takes over traditional publishing? Book lovers, sentimentally attached to the "real thing" may suffer from the change. Do they have the choice?

The sound of soul at the crossroads

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Talent is a wonderful thing! If you happened to have read through the list of events of what went on in Amman lately, you would have been in for a surprise. More movies than ever were being shown at the various cultural centres. Concerts by the orchestra and band of the National Music Conservatory were being rerun because the public demand for tickets had been overwhelming. And exhibitions were springing up all over the place.

In light of all this, and acknowledging the fact that we have a proper and adequate exhibition space, an ever increasing number of theatres and cultural centres, a case has to be put forward for setting up a national complex devoted to musical engagements! Our theatre buildings are, undeniably, containers for drama. But on the outside, they play no part whatsoever in the plot of human life. What we need are buildings which provide us with a set on which people participate in a drama that is both rewarding social ritual and satisfactory at a personal level.

Talent is also a wonderful thing because it does, or at least should, give us the ability to speak our minds when the time is right. It does not mean however that, given the space and the freedom to practice such an option, this freedom to speak be abused.

Talent is also about telling apart right from wrong. It certainly is not, never was and can never be allowed to become, about rejoicing at somebody's death. Talent, combined with vision and a sense of purpose, means helping people to make the right choices to make the best of their lives. It means celebrating the advent of peace and clues of a prosperous future set against the calamities of a distant past. Life is, after all, about giving people chances to put right the wrongs in their lives and the unjustness of

so many years of war and hatred.

One can only hope that the younger generation among us will prove up to the task entrusted to them. The task of preserving the legacy of peace and understanding that peace is what we are trying, at great peril, to build. Sadly enough, just as we mourn the passing of peacemakers, we also mourn the sudden and untimely deaths of so many of our young people. Our children have to be made to understand that speeding cars and drugs could, and do, kill.

Certainly the rules of the game will have to change. But at the same time, it is imperative that we do not lose sight of what is important. Parental guidance and supervision are now called for more than ever before. Democratic values have to be taught to our children from an early age. Television programmes, encounters and talk shows featuring young people debating among themselves and with political and economic figures are important. It is important that all our children be able to engage in sound intellectual debates. Teaching them to be considerate of others and their needs, as well as one's own, is also important. To call for better, wealthier and healthier urban and rural environments is important. To be able to secure reasonable levels of justice and equity for all in our social welfare system is important. To speak out and condemn assassination is important. To have a big heart is important. To work for the good of one's profession, society and country is important. To be able to enjoy one's achievements in life is important. To be able to grow old in peace and security is important. To be able to love is important. But to be loved is even more important. To be able to enjoy the sound of soul at the crossroads is important. And to be able to say all of this, freely, and do all of this, honestly, is by far the most important!

STRANGE BUT TRUE

— IN September 1921, when Gandhi was touring Madurai district in Tamil Nadu he came across men and women moving about with insufficient clothing. At the sight of these poverty-stricken people he was moved to tears. From then he vowed to wear the loin cloth as his only dress.

— VENUS, one of the planets, has a peak higher than Mt. Everest, U.S. scientists said. Images constructed from radar scanning show 11,200-metre mountain that would tower over the 8,708-metre Everest, the highest on the earth. The mountain in Venus is unofficially called Maxwell.

— HITLER, the dictator of Germany, committed suicide in the underground bunker of the Imperial Chancellery on April 30, 1945. Probably he was afraid to answer for the horrible crimes he had committed on mankind. Fifty million people were killed in the butchery of the World War II!

— A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD girl vomited 8.2-inch long baby python in Rewa, India. The girl was normal when she took tea but later she felt giddy and vomited. It was then a small snake that came out of her mouth and ran on the ground.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Such is my luck!
— What I mean is this.
— That sounds fishy.
— That's exactly what I did.

Hatha ma fa'altahu bid'dub.
— That's for your own good?
Hatha lesalehik.
— Such was the result of your efforts.
Hathahi heya nateejato juhoodeka.
— Is this what you think now?
Hal hatha ma tazonnohul-aa?
— You're still a child and must be treated as such.
Innaka la zilta tiflan wayajib an tu'amal hakatha.
— That's what I need.
Hatha ma ahtajuhu.
— Thanks for your kindness.
Ashkuruka ala karamika.

JOKES

* WARDEN: "I've been in charge of this prison for 20 years and that calls for a celebration. What kind of a party would you, boys, suggest?"
PRISONERS: "Open house!"



* "WHERE have you been? questioned the employer.
"To have my hair cut," replied the office boy.

"Well, you can't have your hair cut on my time," protested the employer.
"Why not? demanded the office boy," I grew it on your time."

FOCUS



PEOPLE OF THE PAST

NO ONE knows for certain how long people have lived on the earth. The first hominids (human-like animals) probably existed about five million years ago and lived mainly in Africa. People's first tools were sticks and the stones which they learned to chip into rough axes. They used these axes as weapons for hunting animals. They also caught fish with spears and with fish-hooks which they made from thorns. Some stone tools remain from this period, which is known as the Old Stone Age. In the New Stone Age, people began to live together in larger groups. They learned to



HOBBIES

FISH

FISH are more attractive in garden ponds. If it is not possible to build a proper pond, buy one "rarely-made" in glass fibre. Look at other ponds to discover the best ways of using rocks and plants.

Fish can also be kept indoors in a glass tank, which must be kept away from direct sunlight. Goldfish are popular and easiest to keep.

The bottom of the tank should be thoroughly washed beforehand, and the tank should stand for a few days before the fish are added.

A tropical aquarium is set up in the same way, but will need electric heaters, a thermostat, a thermometer, a filtration system and an aerating pump. The pet shop will sell a complete assembly to suit your tank.

RIDDLES

- (1) What tongue never talks?
- (2) What stick never beats anybody?
- (3) What shoes is never brushed?
- (4) What mouth has no lips?
- (5) What foot has no leg?

Thursday, Nov. 16, 1995

1:00 Iris - The Happy Professor
1:20 Fireman Sam
1:30 My Secret Identity
2:00 The New Leave It To Beaver
2:30 White Heat
3:30 Feature "The Last Fling"
Starring: John Ritter & Connie Sellecca
5:00 French Programme
Variety
Celui Qui Chante
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Archimede
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Carol And Company
8:00 The Album Show
8:50 The Royal Variety Performance
9:10 On The Banks of Jordan (P.II)
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie — "Goddess Of Love"
Starring: Vanna White & David Naughten
12:00 The Thorn Birds (Ep. 8)

Friday, Nov. 17, 1995

1:00 Little Mermaid
1:30 Beethoven
1:45 Lift-Off
2:00 The Run Lucas Show
2:25 Space Rangers
3:15 Goldrush In Alaska
4:05 Movies — Games And Videos
5:00 French Programme
Sophie Et Virginie
5:30 Telefilm
Le Paradis Absolument
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Sports Et Musique
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Coach
8:00 Natural Wonders Of Europe
9:10 Wolf
10:00 News In English
10:25 Pride And Prejudice (Part I)

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

11:30 Movie — "Separate Tables"
Starring: Alan Bates & Julie Christie

Saturday, Nov. 18, 1995

2:00 Back To The Future
2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
3:00 Blue Heelers
3:45 Only In Hollywood
4:10 I Love Lucy
4:30 Tarzan
5:00 French Programme
Fractales
Varieties
Omnisciences
6:00 Drama
Cest Mon Histoire
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Faut Pas Rever
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Major Dad
8:00 First Flights
8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
10:00 News In English
10:25 Movie: "Beverly Hills Cow Girl Blues"
Starring: James Brolin & Lisa Hartman
11:50 L'histoire Secrete Du Petrole
12:30 My Good Friend

Sunday, Nov. 19, 1995

2:00 The Flintstones
2:25 Droopy Master Detective
2:45 Family Playhouse
3:10 Scientific Eye
3:35 Puywall's Summer
4:00 I Love Lucy
4:30 Tarzan
5:00 French Programme
Fractales
Serie

6:00 Fruits Et Legumes
Document
La Feu De La Terre
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Sports Et Musique
News Headlines
Nurses
7:35 Cinema, Cinema
8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful
8:25 Varieties
9:10 Heartbeat
9:30 News In English
10:00 Counterstrike
10:25 Cassidy
11:15 My Two Wives

Monday, Nov. 20, 1995

2:00 Shelly Duvall's Bedtime Stories
2:30 Play About
2:45 Hey Dad
3:05 Nature World Of Mitsuaki
4:00 I Love Lucy
4:30 Tarzan
5:00 French Programme
Fractales
Serie
Maria Vandamme
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Nimbus
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 McHale's Navy
8:00 Invention
8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
10:00 News In English
10:25 Inspector Morse
12:00 The American Chart Show

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1995

2:00 Captain Planet
2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.

3:15 Run The Gauntlet
4:00 I Love Lucy
4:30 Tarzan
5:00 French Programme
Fractales
Serie
Fruits Et Legumes
6:00 Medical Magazine
Savoir Plus Santz
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Ushuaia
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 You Bet Your Life
8:00 The Secret Of The Treasure Islands
8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:10 True Blue
10:00 News In English
10:30 Movie: "Vamping"
Starring: Patrick Duffy & Catherine Hyland
Never Come Back (Part I)

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 1995

2:00 Inspector Gadget
2:55 Ghost Writer
3:00 Tomorrow's World
3:30 Amazing Stories
4:00 I Love Lucy
4:30 Tarzan
5:00 French Programme
Fractales
Jeu
Le Trophée Campus
7:00 Le Journal
7:15 Magazine
Sports Et Musiqui
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Anything For A Laugh
8:00 Amazing Races
8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
10:00 News In English
10:25 Prism
10:45 Law And Order
11:30 The Silk Road

Mary Steenburgen is famous wife but not so famous star

By Andrea Orr
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — After many films, a handful of blockbusters and an Academy Award, Mary Steenburgen remained something of an oddity among Hollywood stars — she could walk down the street without attracting throngs of fans.

Even though she is a regular visitor to the White House to see her old friends, Bill and Hillary Clinton, real fame is only just arriving with Steenburgen's latest role — real-life wife of television star Ted Danson.

Steenburgen says she gets more attention being seen with the star of the long-running television sitcom, Cheers, than she ever got from her own work.

"People come up to Ted because they think they know him," Steenburgen told Reuters in a recent interview. "It was scary to me at first. I found myself being pretty shy about it."

Not that she is seriously bothered by her husband's fame. Still basking in a newlywed glow, Steenburgen speaks like an adoring fan herself, praising his gentle ways and confessing that superstardom was never something that she pursued.

"I guess it used to mean something to me when I was a kid and would lie awake and dream about being famous because it would make you feel better about yourself."

"But since I've grown up and had all sorts of joys and heartaches that everyone else in the world has, it doesn't interest me."

In fact, she says, a certain lack of celebrity ambition has had its benefits. Some of her favourite roles have been in offbeat films she never would have taken had she thought about box office results, and she has been able to work at her own pace and take time off to spend with her two children.

With a cumbersome name she never bothered to shorten for movie marquees, an unglamorous way of dressing, and now, a surprisingly small ring from her new husband, she lacks a certain star quality.

While some actors become household names with their first film, she remains, after more than 20 years in the business, a person most people have heard of but often can't place.

"I'm attracted to films that are not necessarily the most commercial things I'm offered. I often see a role and think, that would probably be very good to do, but it isn't interesting to me. Small flamboyant roles interest me a lot."

Flamboyant may be an understatement



Mary Steenburgen

for her latest film, Powder, about an Albino youth with telekinetic powers, which opened last month around the United States.

Steenburgen plays a school principal who recognises the boy's phenomenal intelligence and sensitivity. She said she took the role partly because she has often worked to foster better race relations, and was intrigued with the notion of someone being an outcast because he is "too white."

Steenburgen supported herself working as a waitress in New York for six years while acting in small improvisational theatre.

Her film career was launched in 1978 after Jack Nicholson cast her in Goin' South, over several more established actors.

Two years later, she won an Oscar for best supporting actress in Melvin and Howard. Her other film credits include Time After Time — where she met her first husband Malcolm McDowell — What's Eating Gilbert Grape, Philadelphia, Back To The Future, Part III, Parenthood, and A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy.

Later this fall she will appear in Oliver Stone's Nixon, as the mother of the late conservative president, an irony considering that off stage she is an ardent supporter of more liberal causes and of her friends, the Clintons.

Steenburgen met the Clintons years ago at a party in her home state of Arkansas, and campaigned for them in 1992.

"He's like a brother to me," Steenburgen says of Mr. Clinton, smiling as she recalls how his presence at her wedding last month had the added benefit of clearing the air space overhead and keeping the press at bay.

"I've been really proud of them. It's really nice for them to have people who have known them forever, and don't need anything from them, who can listen to them and cheer them on," she said.

Stallone turns existentialist in new thriller

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — He has played the puglist, the militia man, a comic book icon, a New York cop.

In his latest film, Assassins, Sylvester Stallone tries on the new cloak of existentialist. Playing a contract killer who wants out, he adds welcome shades of reflection and regret to the man of action.

"I'm finished, I'm gone, I quit," sighs Stallone's Robert Rath near the end, preparing to cede the global hit man game to a new kid in town, Miguel Bain (Antonio Banderas).

But for Stallone, now 49 and anything but finished, Assassins suggests a fresh way forward — "it's action by way of Sartre," smiles the actor. Rambo was nothing like this.

The point of this outing, Stallone said, was "not to fall back on any clichés or habits formulated from (my) other films."

"To be fresh at this particular point in a career, you have to re-evaluate who you are," he said, speaking expansively in an interview the afternoon following the movie's world premiere.

"You have to pretend like it's your first movie."

For many, that pretense will come as a welcome relief, since Stallone's first major movie — the Academy Award-winning 1976 Rocky — remains his best.

In between, he sang with Dolly Parton in Rhinestone; won the admiration of Ronald Reagan in Rambo; and partnered Estelle Getty in Stop, Or My Mom Will Shoot, a film he describes "four years after its release as 'horrible on every level.'"

More recent films — The Specialist with Sharon Stone, among them — haven't significantly improved.

Most disconcerting was this summer's Judge Dredd, a would-be special effects colossus that turned out to be a colossal bore and has grossed less than half its nearly \$80 million budget in

the United States to date. (Stallone says better overseas receipts will enable it eventually to break even.)

In the past, said Stallone, "I have taken mediocre projects in haste. I don't know if it's the out of work mentality that just won't dissolve, but I feel when I'm not working as though maybe something is slipping by."

"Now, I am adamant — let's just work with sophisticated filmmakers from now on or not at all, or I'll just direct it myself."

Referring indirectly to Danny Cannon, the young British director of Judge Dredd, Stallone said: "I can't work with kids that don't have the passion, the culture, or the knowledge."

Assassins, happily, has all three, as feistily directed by Richard Donner (Lethal Weapon) and photographed in a moody art house style by Oscar-winning cameraman, Vilmos Zsigmond (Close Encounters Of The Third Kind).

"I had doubts if I was ever going to get the opportunity to perform in a performance film as opposed to an action film," Stallone said.

"Then, Dick Donner said, 'I don't want your shirt off'; this is all about presence and state of mind, and if it works, it is going to send a message, finally."

Not that Stallone in any way passes the buck for the varying critical fortunes of his career. And in box-office terms, he has no worries, since his new deal with Universal Pictures will earn him a record \$20 million a film.

With Rocky, he said, "something happened to me that was unexpected. Everyone assumed I was Rocky, and I think my behavior off screen fed into that nice and neatly."

"My persona was crafted by myself, and I have only myself to blame for sending out that kind of street animal persona where people think, 'maybe he just got lucky' — there can't really be that innate working intelligence."

"And then when I did try



Sylvester Stallone arrives with Jennifer Flavin for the world premiere of his latest movie Assassins in London

to reach out, I went in the wrong direction. Instead of Rhinestone, I should have gone to something like Coming Home" — he was offered the role of the paraplegic Vietnam veteran that won Jon Voight an Oscar — "something very extreme."

Stallone was kept busy in London while visiting for a few days to hype his new movie, accompanied by girlfriend Jennifer Flavin.

When not receiving journalists in a darkened room at the Berkeley Hotel, he was host of an Assassins party at the local branch of Planet Hollywood, one of 30 of a planned 100 such

eateries worldwide. (His partners are Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger.)

Before returning to Rome, where he is shooting a new thriller Daylight, Stallone planned to stop by Sotheby's auction house to preview some upcoming sales of neoclassical paintings and works by old masters — his current passions.

"I've shed myself of my contemporary collection," explained Stallone, himself an amateur artist, who is hanging on to modern works by Botero, Hockney, Bacon, Diego Rivera and Jim Dine.

Daylight will keep

Stallone busy through March, and a courtroom drama by Taylor Hackford (Dolores Claiborne) looms as a possible project after that.

But Stallone said he would happily do a Woody Allen film, or low-budget Miramax project, for next to no fee if the offers arose.

"I'm no longer jumping into something because I have this overwhelming compulsion to work," he said. Working on Assassins accounts for his shift in attitude.

"It opened my eyes to working with people of elevated stature in this business."

Dietrich's daughter at new exhibit: 'I was her handmaid'

By Terrence Petty
The Associated Press

BONN — Marlene Dietrich was no Joan Crawford.

"She never hit. But she could look at you and turn you to ice," said the daughter of the German-born screen siren, whose career memorabilia and filmed work went on display last Thursday.

"I was her handmaid. She was the queen."

Dietrich was adored by movie audiences, but saw her own child, her husband

and her male and female lovers as instruments to help create and preserve the legend she became, said the grown-up daughter, Maria Riva.

"Dietrich was a Prussian soldier to the core and her duty was the Dietrich legend. Her lovers, her husband and I served that duty," said Ms. Riva.

Few people dared to cross Dietrich, she said, because they feared the power that came with her fame.

The daughter of a police-

man, Dietrich had the world at her feet after she renounced Nazi Germany in 1930 and moved to the United States. She soared to fame in movies like Shanghai Express, Morocco, The Blond Venus, and The Flame Of New Orleans. Lonely, addicted to sleeping pills and to alcohol, the 90-year-old Dietrich died three years ago in her Paris apartment.

Ms. Riva, who is 70, came to Bonn to see the Dietrich exhibit at Bonn's Art and

Exhibit Museum. The memorabilia belong to a massive collection Ms. Riva has sold to the city of Berlin.

As a child, Ms. Riva had to accompany her mother on tours around the world, doing small tasks for the legendary chanteuse.

"When I was a child, I thought all children cleaned (their mother's) shoes and put them away," said Ms. Riva, author of an unflattering book about her mother.

Rather than attend schools, Ms. Riva had gov-

ernesses who were responsible for her education. She rarely got to be with other children.

But Ms. Riva said she admires her mother, because unlike most Germans she stood up to the Nazis.

"A lot of people will come to this exhibit to see the glamour, and Dietrich's legs," said Ms. Riva, standing in front of a huge photograph showing those famous gams.

"But people should also learn what this woman

believed in and how brave she was."

Instead of hating her mother, Ms. Riva feels sorry for her because behind all the glamour was a tragic life where true love proved elusive.

Though married to Berlin casting director Rudolf Sieber, Dietrich had a number of affairs with men and women. Ms. Riva said even as a child she knew what was going on.

"My father did, I did," said Ms. Riva.

Dietrich's greatest love was French actor Jean Gabin, who broke the actress' heart by dumping her, Ms. Riva said.

"I can't remember many times when she really had fun or enjoyed being rich. As a child I found it wonderful. But mother looked at it as if it was just part of being famous," said Dietrich's daughter, who lives in Switzerland.

Dietrich lived in an unreal world and her profession placed great demands on the

actress, Ms. Riva said. "She bordered on the schizophrenic. There wasn't one Marlene Dietrich. There were 40 or 50. She could be the milkmaid, the siren, the lover, the cook. She played the mother role, but that was transient."

At the museum exhibit is a moving expression of Dietrich's inner sadness.

It is a piece of paper, on which in 1980 Dietrich scrawled words from a Rainer Marie Rilke poem: "He who is now alone, will that way remain."

James Bond returns with new-look, new-man image

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

LONDON — More than half the world's population has seen a James Bond film and they haven't even been released in China yet.

The 16 bond movies have made more than \$2 billion around the globe. They used to be compulsory viewing for Soviet KGB agents fascinated by Bond's killer gadgets.

Bikini-clad bond starlets launched a million male fantasies. The official James Bond fan club — Post Box No. 007 — boasts members from Fiji to Estonia.

Now Irishman Pierce Brosnan has stepped into the suave shoes of the world's most famous spy to star in Goldeneye.

The first film Brosnan ever saw at the age of 11 was Goldfinger and he has never forgotten the electrifying effect of Sean Connery in the role of elegant ladykiller Bond.

"For me, Sean Connery was James Bond," Brosnan said as he braced for weeks on the international publicity treadmill promoting the film. It had its world premiere at New York's Radio City Music Hall on Nov. 13.

But he is equally flattering about Roger Moore, star of eight Bond films: "I realised that he had this wonderful irony and actually did an incredible job."

Brosnan, who rehearsed the famous line "my name is Bond, James Bond" every morning while brushing his teeth, takes over from British actor Timothy Dalton, last seen in "Licence To Kill" in 1989.

Bond has a new-look, new-man nineties image. His boss is a woman — classical actress Judi Dench has taken over as M and even castigates Bond, calling him a misogynist dinosaur.

New Zealand Director Martin Campbell kept a politically correct eye open for Bond.

"I think his attitudes are very nineties. There is no bimbo element in it at all. He certainly was sexist in past films. He is less so in this one," he said of the \$50 million movie filmed in Britain, Monte Carlo, Russia and Puerto Rico.

Dutch actress Famke Janssen plays a villain who squeezes her lovers to death with her thighs. But she says: "This is not anybody's bimbo. I try to bring my

intelligence to the part."

However, Brosnan is quick to assure male chauvinist fans that political correctness did not run riot on the set.

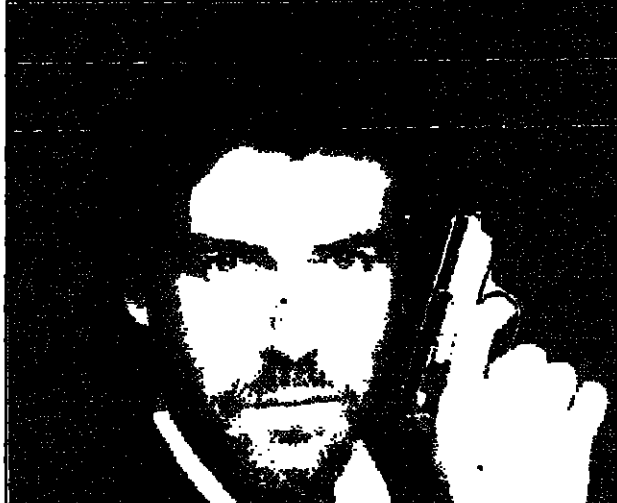
"Bond still likes the girls but if a girl misbehaves, she'll get a thump. You know the plot won't work any other way. James Bond movies are pure fantasy and entertainment," he said.

Real-life cold war double agent Oleg Gordievsky revealed that Bond's ingenious gadgets — from laser guns to killer pens — were the subject of KGB scrutiny in the old Soviet empire.

"The technology was so advanced in Britain and the West that (they felt) some of it must exist," said the former KGB spy who switched sides.

All 16 Bond films have made money. Thunderball was the top earner, grossing \$237 million.

The Dutch are the people who per capita have bought the most movie tickets to a Bond film. The Japanese above all love the gadgets and the beautiful women.



Pierce Brosnan as the new James Bond

goddess in Dr. No. Shirley Eaton was covered in gold paint for Goldfinger, Britt Ekland toled a gun. Grace Jones played the killer May Day.

In these days of Superman and Batman, merchandising is vital to a film's profitability.

The U.S. department store Nieman Marcus featured in their catalogue 100 BMW open-top sports cars like the one Brosnan drives in Goldeneye. They were snapped up in 10 days.

Bollinger was the official Bond champagne for the New York launch. The man

who likes his vodka martinis shaken not stirred was being promoted on Smirnoff vodka.

And finally the song — no Bond film would be complete without one.

Shirley Bassey recorded two of the most memorable Bond songs with Goldfinger in 1964 and Diamonds Are Forever in 1971.

This time Tina Turner has teamed up with Ireland's U2 to belt out the song that could be heading into hit parades around the world as the Bond box office tills start ringing again after six years.

Shanghai Film Festival ends with few deals, much hope

By Bradley Lee
Agence France Presse

SHANGHAI — Hollywood made tentative steps into China's potentially lucrative film market last week with talk of partnerships and major deals in the works but there was little to show after two weeks in the "Cannes of the east".

Rumours about direct investment in the ailing Chinese film industry, co-productions, distribution agreements and building cinemas proliferated at the second Shanghai International Film Festival but few were taking any large deals home, industry sources said.

Phoenix Pictures President Mike Medavoy, who was born in Shanghai in 1941, left early last week amid rumours of a \$600-million partnership with the Shanghai Film Studio.

Twentieth Century Fox said it had made a distribution deal on A Walk In The Clouds with the China Film Import and Export Corp., they said.

"There have been deals at this conference and there

have been partnerships formed," said Lisa Atkinson, programme director for an international film industry conference run by Los Angeles-based Celestial Media Organisation during the festival.

Overseas Film Group sold distribution rights to Mad Dogs And Englishmen by British director Henry Cole to China Film Corp., which has a virtual monopoly over foreign films.

United International Pictures (UIP) announced the biggest deal of the festival, saying it had secured a profit-sharing deal on distributing three films — Apollo 13, the James Bond thriller Golden Eye and Hong Kong movie star Jackie Chan's upcoming Police Story 4 — with China Film Corp.

Frank Fan, China manager for UIP which is in a distribution joint venture with Hong Kong's Golden Harvest Films, said the films could reap box office receipts higher than 220 million yuan (\$26.5 million) throughout China.

The company, which dis-

tributes films for Hollywood giants Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM), Paramount Pictures, United Artists and Universal Pictures Corp., brought U.S.-made film True Lies, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, to Chinese cinemas earlier in the year.

True Lies has been outstanding and has made over 90 million yuan, Fan said, adding "but frankly we don't know how much it has really made because it's still being released by China Film."

Fan would not give a specific breakdown of profits but said "in general it's around 40-60" in favour of China Film.

UIP also brought to China top grossing foreign film, Jackie Chan's Rumble In The Bronx, which made more than 95 million yuan nationwide, as well as Drunkenmaster II, and Forrest Gump.

"We're coming into the market and we hope we can learn how big the market is, but right now we don't have any true figures on it," Fan said.

Discoverer of Alzheimer's gene now says he knows how it causes damage

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press
DURHAM, N.C. — The discoverer of a genetic trait linked to Alzheimer's says he has now figured out how the trait causes the disease — by weakening the microscopic "plumbing" that carries nutrients to brain cells and flushes out the waste.

The new understanding offers numerous possibilities for the development of drugs that might not "cure" the disease but could delay it for 20 years, meaning most people would not live long enough to get it, said Dr. Allen Roses, chairman of the Neurology Department at Duke University Medical Centre.

Speaking at a meeting sponsored by the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing, Dr. Roses also reported that people with the Alzheimer's gene are more likely than others to die after a head injury, because of the weakened condition of their neurons, or nerve cells.

The gene produces a substance called ApoE4, or Apo E4, which shuttles cholesterol through the bloodstream.

Dr. Roses' belief that Apo E4 is critical in Alzheimer's puts him at odds with some other leading authorities.

"No one disputes that E4 is important, E4 is a risk factor, not the cause," said Dr. Dennis Selkoe, a neurologist at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Selkoe believes that E4 somehow changes the form of a substance called amyloid in the brain. The brains of Alzheimer's victims are laced with amyloid plaques, or deposits, that Dr. Selkoe and others believe are the central feature of Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Roses said he believes that amyloid is an incidental consequence of damage produced by Apo E4, and that amyloid is not central to the disease itself.

For years, Apo E4 had been known to be linked to an increased risk of heart disease. In 1993, Dr. Roses reported a link between Apo E4 and Alzheimer's.

About 2 per cent of Americans have two copies of the Apo E4 gene, giving them a 50 per cent chance of getting Alzheimer's before age 70. In contrast, for those with no copies of the Apo E4 gene, the risk of developing the disease does not rise to 50 per cent until after age 90.

About one-third of Americans have one copy, which puts them at intermediate risk.

An estimated 4 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and 100,000 die of it every year. It is the fourth leading cause of death in adults after heart disease, cancer and strokes. It usually strikes after age 65.

The idea that Apo E4 is related to Alzheimer's disease emerged from research on families with inherited forms of the disease, Dr. Roses said. Researchers were stymied by a pesky laboratory contaminant that was distorting their results.

Out of frustration, they purified the contaminant and discovered that it was Apo E. Subsequent research showed that of the various forms of Apo E, Apo E4 raised the risk of Alzheimer's disease, while Apo E2 was protective.

The most recent work shows that Apo E helps stabilise and strengthen tiny structures called microtubules, which carry nutrients to the cells and dispose of waste.

Apo E2 does the job well, but Apo E4 does not. The weakened microtubules become less efficient carriers of nutrients and waste, and the brain cell begins to weaken, Dr. Roses said.

New Hope for Men Suffering from Enlarged Prostates

Study shows progressive enlarging of prostate can be stopped, even reversed with drugs

COPENHAGEN (Agencies) — A major new study published in Urology shows that the enlargement of the prostate gland known as Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH), a progressive disease which often requires long-term management, can be treated effectively with the widely prescribed drug Finasteride.

"BPH is one of the most common diseases in men, but conventional non-surgical therapies provide only symptomatic relief. Conventional medical therapy does not stop the ongoing enlargement of the prostate gland which causes the condition," said Professor Jens Thorup Andersen, Chair of the steering committee for the study, in announcing the publication of the results.

Results from the Scandinavian Study on Reduction of the Prostate (SCARP) have shown that treatment with the drug Finasteride produced a sustained, significant decrease in prostate size as providing symptomatic improvement over the two-year period. The double-blind, placebo-controlled trial was carried out in over 700 men with moderate BPH symptoms.

"Our study proves for the first time in a long-term placebo-controlled trial that Finasteride offers sufferers symptom relief as well as the chance to deal with the fundamental cause of their BPH long-term, rather than looking solely for a short-term improvement in symptoms," continued Professor Andersen.

Treatment Target Cause of BPH

BPH is a progressive disease which affects over half of all men over the age of 60. This non-malignant growth of the prostate gland slowly obstructs normal urine flow, causing symptoms such as greater frequency and night-time urination, urine stream hesitancy, and dribbling. Conventional non-surgical treatments for BPH are only able to relieve some of the troublesome symptoms of the disease, but in many men the symptoms recur as the disease continues to progress, and as the prostate gland continues growing.

Research has shown that the development of BPH depends on a combination of aging and on the hormone dihydrotestosterone (DHT). The male hormone testosterone is converted to DHT in the prostate gland by an enzyme called 5-alpha reductase. Medical therapy with Finasteride blocks this conversion process and suppresses levels of DHT by approximately 60-70 per cent without reducing normal levels of testosterone.

Finasteride is the only drug licensed for use in BPH which acts in this way on a key underlying cause of the disease.

Symptoms Improved. Total symptom score (an assessment of symptom severity made by the patients) improved significantly in the Finasteride group from 8 months onwards. The men receiving placebo, however, showed an initial transient improvement but then deteriorated to below baseline by the end of the two-year study.

Less Intervention Required. Significantly fewer men in the Finasteride group required intervention treatment than in the placebo group. Prostate surgery was needed in nine of the men receiving placebo, but in none of the Finasteride-treated men. Fifteen men given placebo and only four receiving Finasteride needed catheterisation for acute urinary retention. Even though this is not a primary endpoint, but shown in a post hoc analysis, it should be regarded as definitive.

"Our results show that Finasteride can halt — and even reverse — the progression of BPH, and that this improvement is maintained over an extended period," said Professor Peter Ekman of the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm.

The Scandinavian study published today has now confirmed that treatment with Finasteride not only provides symptomatic relief but also unequivocally demonstrates that treatment with Finasteride can stop the prostatic growth observed in men of this age group. In the multicenter trial, 707 men with moderate symptoms of BPH were randomised to either placebo or Finasteride for a period of two years, with regular evaluation visits. Results showed that:

Prostate Size Reduced. The average size of the prostate gland fell by a fifth after two years in the men treated with Finasteride. Over the same period, the placebo-treated group showed an increase of 11.5 per cent in prostate size.

Vaccine fights lung cancer in mouse experiment

By Joanne Kenen
Reuters
WASHINGTON — An experimental vaccine has helped protect mice against a form of lung cancer, and has also helped prevent the spread of tumours in the lab animals, scientists said.

Other scientists described the findings, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature Medicine*, as exciting but cautioned that an experimental technique that shows promise in mice does not necessarily herald a breakthrough in treatment of human cancers.

The research team at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science managed to isolate and reproduce a small protein fragment or peptide in a type of lung cancer called Lewis Carcinoma.

They then vaccinated mice with the peptide, and exposed them to cancer cells. But tumours did not develop.

Similarly, mice who already had tumours did not suffer a spread or relapse after surgery when vaccinated.

"The mice have been rendered immune to the cancer," Weizmann researcher Gideon Berke, who helped supervise the vaccine project, said in a telephone interview from Israel.

The most dangerous part of cancer is not the initial primary tumour, but the metastasis or spread. Even when doctors operate and think they have removed the whole tumour, just a few cells can escape and establish themselves in the body, spreading the cancer.

"The primary cancer is usually not the (life-threatening) problem. It's the secondary metastatic disease that kills the patient," Dr. Berke said.

"Therefore there is tremendous interest, when cancer is first diagnosed, to come in with an injection that will create a state of response," he said, explaining that the goal was to create a vaccine that will help the immune system recognise the dangerous tumour cells and fight them off.

Although researchers elsewhere are working on vaccines that could potentially treat melanoma, cervical cancer and other human tumours, Dr. Berke said this peptide approach could eventually apply to several human cancers.

However, he and other scientists were careful to point out that each cancer is different, and a peptide that may work against lung cancer would probably not be effective against other forms. In addition, it is not certain that scientists will be able to find the human counterpart to the mouse peptide and make a vaccine.

'Laughter is great but elusive medicine'

By Allen Nacheman
Agence France Presse
OXFORD, England — Robert Holden, psychologist and laughter specialist, tells of a bizarre epidemic that began in a rural schoolhouse in the Bukoba district of Tanganyika, central Africa.

A teacher's banal remark got a couple of children giggling, and pretty soon the entire classroom was chuckling.

Those in adjacent classrooms heard laughter through the walls, and began to laugh, and pretty soon everyone — pupils and teachers — were laughing uncontrollably, and school was adjourned.

"Remember, virtually none of them had a clue why they were laughing," Dr. Holden said in an interview, recounting a report in the *Central African Journal of Medicine*. "It was delirious laughter turning contagious."

Then the children went home laughing and when their parents saw them, they, too, were infected.

"Next day, they were all laughing so hard that nobody was able to go to school or work," Dr. Holden said.

"The entire village was infected. Over a period of two weeks it spread to neighbouring villages."

"Finally the Red Cross was called in because people were collapsing from exhaustion and dehydration. There have been similar incidents in Africa, but this was the longest laughter epidemic on record."

And as Dr. Holden is telling this, he begins to laugh.

And his interviewer begins to laugh also.

And each asks the other what's so funny. But neither can say.

"This is incredible," says the psychologist who set up Britain's first National Health Service (NHS) Laughter Clinic.

"Wouldn't it be terrific if this were something we could get from a pill or an injection? I'd love it. That would just be wonderful."

Unfortunately, says Dr. Holden, while laughter is itself medicinal — one of his books is entitled, *Laughter, The Best Medicine* — it cannot be prescribed.

Nor is it as spontaneous or infectious in the West as in the Third World, where "they don't have our neuroses about always being in control and coping."

"We're all born with the capacity to laugh," he says. "It's just that in the West we are told early on not to."

"One of the saddest things that happens to us in life," he says, is that at around the age of six or seven, we are told by teachers in school to stop laughing and be serious."

Research has shown that children smile on average 400 times a day, adults only 15. Children laugh 150 times a day, but by the time they grow up it's down to six.

"There is something wholesomely anarchistic about laughter," he said. "You cannot be controlled when you're laughing. It's easy to control a miserable person."

So Dr. Holden, in books, *Laughter Clinic*, international seminars, and as stress consultant to the BBC, NHS, Citibank, Sony UK, British Telecom, the Body Shop and other firms, endeavours to teach folks to grow back their amputated funny bones.

It's not easy, he says. Far more than the sum of

Mayo researchers say rise in prostate cancers due to screening

By Lindsey Tanner
The Associated Press
CHICAGO — The number of diagnosed cases of prostate cancer are rising — not necessarily because of any decline in the health of American men, but because of a new blood test that can detect the disease early on, researchers say.

The findings should be reassuring to men, said Dr. Steven J. Jacobsen, who reported the findings in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The increase in diagnosed cases of prostate cancer "means it's probably not something out in the environment, something that we're doing lifestyle-wise. It's probably just due to the testing," he said. "We're detecting cases that had not previously come to medical attention."

The new PSA, or prostate-specific antigen, test can detect cancers that would otherwise have gone undiagnosed.

The test, introduced in 1987 but not approved for screening until 1994, detects a prostate-produced protein. Elevated levels are a possible indicator of cancer, though a follow-up ultrasound and biopsy are used to make a definitive diagnosis.

Annual PSA screening for prostate cancer — the nation's second-leading cancer killer of men — is now recommended for men 50 and older.

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, examined the incidence of prostate cancer several years before and after the test was introduced and found the incidence to more than triple between 1983 and 1992.

Led by Dr. Jacobsen, an epidemiologist, they looked at 511 cases diagnosed in those nine years in Olmsted County, Minnesota, home of the Mayo Clinic.

The age-adjusted incidence of prostate cancer increased from 64 per 100,000 people in 1983 to 215 per 100,000 in 1992. The largest increase occurred in 1988, when there was a doubling from 1987, the year PSA testing was introduced. Among men 70 and older, the incidence declined after 1990, indicating that PSA testing was helping diagnose patients at a younger age, the researchers said.

Because most residents in the county are white and middle class, the researchers cautioned that the findings might not apply to all settings.

But the results are similar to a recent National Cancer Institute study of the incidence of prostate cancer from 1986 to 1991.

That study, reported in the Feb. 15 issue of the journal, said increased detection through PSA screening probably explains an 82 per cent increase in incidence of the disease among men 65 and older in four American states.

Dr. William Catalona, a urologist at Washington University in St. Louis, said the Mayo Clinic findings should be reassuring.

"People have been looking almost with horror... at the dramatic increases," Dr. Catalona said. "If prostate cancers are detected earlier, in younger men," the increase "is not going to be sustained."

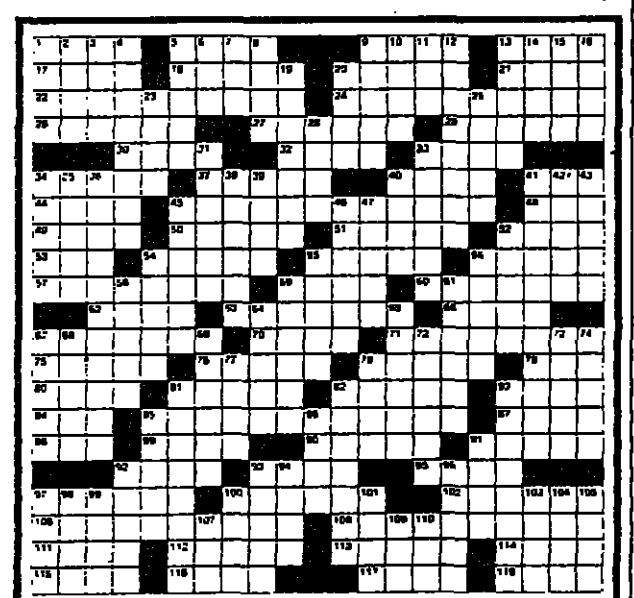
But Dr. Jacobsen and colleagues cautioned that it's still unclear whether early detection translates into better survival rates.

"It will probably be decades before definitive answers are at hand," they wrote.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

SHEER POETRY
By Harold B. Counts

- ACROSS**
1. Whimsical word
 2. Nation's new center
 3. Part of G.D.S.
 4. Tolerant
 5. Fertilizer
 6. Desert dropper
 7. Furrower
 8. Member of
 9. Expression
 10. Name of
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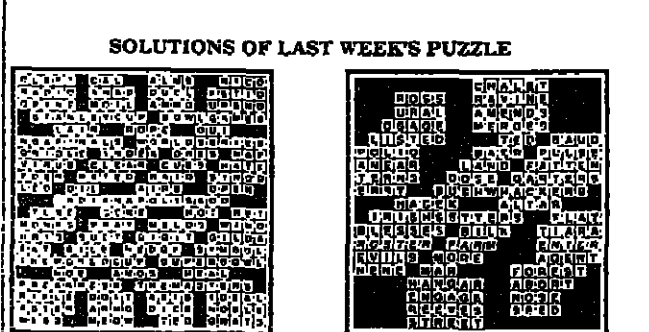


Diagramless, 17 X 17
By Francis Burton

- ACROSS**
1. Frivolous beauty
 2. Unadorned
 3. Ruler's love
 4. Decade
 5. Quality, no power
 6. Meme
 7. Partial spot
 8. Volcanic output
 9. TV portrayer of
 10. Tardis
 11. Pupa
 12. Head
 13. Deep lover
 14. Foul liver
 15. Slender's club
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
1. Frivolous beauty
 2. Unadorned
 3. Ruler's love
 4. Decade
 5. Quality, no power
 6. Meme
 7. Partial spot
 8. Volcanic output
 9. TV portrayer of
 10. Tardis
 11. Pupa
 12. Head
 13. Deep lover
 14. Foul liver
 15. Slender's club
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Khmer Rouge horrors set for the Internet

By Leo Dobbs
Reuter

PHNOM PENH — A U.S.-funded team investigating the crimes of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime hopes to make the evidence of mass murder available on the Internet for the benefit of scholars, prosecutors and relatives of the dead.

The wealth of material will include haunting photographs of the victims of a torture centre and their final confessions, maps of mass graves and prisons, biographies of Khmer Rouge leaders and rare internal documents of the revived 1975-79 regime.

The Cambodia Genocide Programme (CGP) has set up a local non-governmental organisation called the Documentation Centre which has started compiling bibliographic, geographic, biographic and photographic databases, project consultant Helen Jarvis said.

"We're hoping that the database will be available on the Internet," the Australian academic said in a recent interview, adding that a home page had been prepared but "we wouldn't expect to be doing that (with the Internet) until next year."

Rare material set for inclusion includes minutes of the "party centre" — euphemism for the Khmer Rouge politburo — from 1975 and 1976 and the historically valuable archives of Pol Pot's commerce ministry, said Ms. Jarvis.

"It's the only ministry archive that we've come across, we suspect there might be more," said the documentation consultant to Yale University's Cambodia Genocide Programme (CGP), which is funded by a \$500,000 U.S. State Department grant for 1995-96.

Mr. Jarvis has begun the database with 200 documents from the trial in absentia of Pol Pot and his right-hand man Ieng Sary, which was conducted in 1979 by the socialist regime installed by Hanoi the same year and sentenced the two to death for genocide.

CGP plans to augment this database with confessions extracted from Pol Pot's victims at the Tuol Sleng, or S-21, torture centre in Phnom Penh, papers from a provincial prison, the commerce archives and material discovered elsewhere or yet to be found.

"Now we're collecting more documents here... we've received very good cooperation from the government," the Australian academic said, adding that ministries and individuals, including co-premier Hun Sen, had provided documents.

The documentation centre is particularly keen on records of the Khmer Rouge prepared by themselves and which give evidence of their crimes, Ms. Jarvis said.

Laws hired by the U.S. State Department to look at possible legal options for making Khmer Rouge leaders accountable for the horrors of the late 1970s, say there is enough evidence to try them on charges of crimes against humanity and genocide.

The CGP's work also embraces training of Cambodians and research for publication, including studies on the experiences of different regions and different sectors of society, such as women, Muslims and Buddhist monks, under Khmer Rouge rule.

IN THE heart of Israel a hopeful cult has appeared, dedicated to the blood of Yitzhak Rabin and complete with places of pilgrimage, shrines, texts, and even holy relics like the stained copy of the Song of Peace pierced by the assassin's bullet. Secular Israel has found its passion play.

Many Israelis believe that Mr. Rabin's death has reinvigorated Israeli secular society, awoken it to a sense of its values, and given it a martyr figure around which to create a new coherence. The illuminated signs which have sprung up in Tel Aviv overnight demanding that "Peace should continue" are a witness not so much to any specific readiness to work harder to reach agreement with the Palestinians as to this reinvigoration. In the real peace process, large obstacles remain. But peace is the motto of a secular Israel reclaiming its ground from the religious right, and has united the tentative political operators of the Labour Party with the demonstrators who used to spurn them. Peace Now and Peace Sometimes have finally joined forces.

In a country where religious extremism musters so much certainty, as the deadly coolness of the young assassin showed in court, the secular majority needed the emotional — and in its way also religious — direction that the killing has brought. When the Square of the Kings of Israel is renamed Yitzhak Rabin Square, at the urging of a Likud mayor of Tel Aviv, secular Israel will, in effect, have beheaded the old soldier and politician. Mr. Rabin, except for the manner of his death, was not a likely saint. But his fate reminded Israelis of what had been lost over the years and what challenges to their tradition they had been prepared to tolerate for the sake of a quiet life or for political advantage.

The middle classes are out of their rut for the first time for years, the radical journalist Haim Baram says, "and there is a cult around which to organise, a great man to revere, sacred places in our cities to protect and defend. Others speak of 'groping for forms of mourning' and the resurgence of the 'religion of blue jeans and guitars' as young Israelis in particular converge on the sites, the square and the town hall in Tel Aviv, the prime minister's office and house in Jerusalem. The huge attendance of foreign leaders at Mr. Rabin's funeral has reinforced that 'cult'.

The dissonance but often performed Israeli song 'The Whole World Is Against Us' has been replaced, thanks



Shrine of remembrance... artefacts and a mural of Yitzhak Rabin where he was assassinated

Flickers of hope

Martin Woollacott reports that secular Israel is awakening and already beginning to recover moral ground from the religious right

IN part to this enormous show of respect, with the Song of Peace, the anti-war lyric by a soldier on the Sinai frontline more than 20 years ago.

Israelis have felt the long unaccustomed touch of international solidarity. "In three and a half days," says Baram, "this country has changed as much as in 10 years." In his view this means that the floating voters of Israel, from the relatively well-off, pragmatic centre, will vote for Labour in any election. Some will do it because of that pragmatism, some because they see themselves as citizens of the world, and many more because Mr. Rabin's death has given Labour and its

policies a heroic dimension. Attacks by Hamas and Islamic Jihad will not, he believes, much inhibit that tendency. They will also be likened much more openly, as they never were before, with Jewish terrorism.

The view of Israel put forward by many observers in recent years has been of a society making more and more money, busily privatising state assets and scaling down trade unions and social services along lines first laid down in Europe and America. The majority of people lived their increasingly individual lives.

Many were religious but in the largely private way that had become standard in the

West. In a sense they embodied the Zionist aim that Israel would eventually become a normal country, except that in their quest for normalcy they avoided paying more than intermittent attention to the other Israel evolving.

The growing minority was critical of this allegedly hedonistic Israel and found its values in fundamentalist religion. One side shopped, the other prayed, fought, and sometimes killed. According to David Landau, author of a respected book on fundamentalist religion, the most notable way in which secular Israel neglected its own values was in its consistent refusal to try to understand and

counter the religious right. This was so even as the national orthodox groups moved into institutions where they had previously been under-represented, like the army. The advance of the religious right was much less to do with parliamentary arithmetic, although that admittedly gave religious parties much leverage, than it was, Mr. Landau believes, with "secular Israel's constant repression of its consciousness of the different mind set of the religious right."

"I sometimes feel a more intellectually sincere attempt to understand Islamic fundamentalism has been made here," he says,

"than has been made to understand Jewish fundamentalism. It was not a question of the ultra-orthodox, the people with funny clothes," who in any case were mainly neutral on territorial questions, "but of the ones that are part and parcel of life in the office, the shop, and the university." Mr. Landau speaks of what he knows, since his own son was a classmate of Rabin's assassin at Bar-Ilan University. The assassin, Mr. Landau stresses, did not come out of any truly extreme background but from the "ordinary Modern Orthodox movement, whose youth wing is the biggest in Israel."

The partly veiled argument between the two main parties, in which Labour suggests that Likud created an atmosphere of incitement to murder, and Likud suggests that Labour provoked murder is thus irrelevant. The truth, Mr. Landau believes, is that one party played with a religious right that used them rather than the other way round, while the other preferred to ignore the problem. The historian Yehoshua Porath notes, like others, that at recent Likud public meetings, "the crowd controlled Likud, not Likud the crowd," and the crowd was virtually to a man from the religious right.

The issue of Jewish religious extremism was ducked after the Hebron massacre: It could be ducked again by two parties for whom, it is, in different ways, political dynamite. The peace process is even more problematical since, even with Mr. Rabin in place, the problems of a final agreement, which include not only settlements but the status of Jerusalem and, most critical of all, the right of return, were always going to be huge.

The sense of a shift of direction in Israel is nevertheless heartening. Those who urge that there should be no more playing of games with religious extremists are being heard out. Those who say that even if a final settlement with the Palestinians is difficult to envisage, it is worth taking some more steps in the darkened room, are having their say. Those who want to be in the world rather than against it are in the ascendant. But what could turn out to be the most important change of all is that, secular Israel has a renewed creed, marked out through the land by the little blue tins in which the memorial candles burn, around which to rally.

The Guardian

Woman held in Rabin case

(Continued from page 12)

tion... we are the victims of a lunatic, of a man who is leading us nowhere."

"During the visit to our home, Arafat was very warm. He hugged my children and grandchildren and said that from now on we were part of his family," Mrs. Rabin said.

Mr. Arafat was not invited to the state funeral on Nov.

6, but on Thursday secretly visited the Rabin family home in a Tel Aviv suburb to present his condolences.

"These declarations of Yasser Arafat are part of his style, and come from two years of day and night negotiations to advance the peace process," she said.

Asked whether she was prepared to be a candidate on the Labour list in next year's general elections, she said she was "not ready to commit herself."

"For the moment I prefer to stay at home and let my voice be heard from there," Israeli Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein has urged pupils and parents to turn in teachers who try to spread extremist right-wing views in the classroom, officials said Wednesday.

Mr. Rubinstein told a meeting of the parliament's education committee that they should "not be afraid" to report any teachers making inflammatory remarks after the assassination of Mr. Rabin.

He promised they would be suspended. "In the past pupils and parents have been afraid to report cases because certain teachers have spread terror in the classroom," spokesman Joshua Amishav told AFP.

"If there are still people who have not understood that they should keep quiet in the current circumstances then we want pupils and parents not to be afraid to report them."

"To be afraid of the fascists is to prepare for other dramas in this country."

He said the ministry was investigating three teachers who voiced support for the assassination. But he gave no details until the complaints from different schools have been checked out.

Militants claim Egyptian killing

(Continued from page 12)

attached to Egyptian embassies worldwide.

Aladdin Nazmi, 42, a trade counsellor at the Egyptian U.N. mission, was shot six times late Monday in the basement car park of his apartment building in Geneva. Swiss authorities have launched a murder inquiry.

"A death sentence had been issued against him and the forces of the martyr Abdullah Azem carried out the sentence by killing him with bullets," the group said.

Azem, a Palestinian, was one of the leading Islamic fighters who went to Afghanistan to fight occupying Soviet troops before he was killed in 1988.

The statement warned that other death sentences had been passed against those "involved in the pursuit of Muslim clerics and the sons of the Islamic movement, and who have incited the governments in the countries where they live to take action by accusing the Islamic movement of terrorism."

It said it would target members of Egyptian diplomatic missions abroad involved in "clandestine activities contrary to Islam" that led to young Muslims being tried before military courts and sentenced to death.

The duty of the Gamaa of International Justice is to put an end to the injustice against Muslims, wherever it comes from, anywhere in the world and against any authority threatening Muslims," it said.

Militants launched a violent campaign to overthrow the Egyptian government in March 1992 that has cost a total of 912 lives so far.

The media in Cairo have often accused Switzerland of providing asylum for Egyptian fundamentalists, a charge Swiss authorities have repeatedly denied.

Sources close to Egyptian security services believe a leader of the militant Jihad organisation, Ayman Al Zawahiri, was behind the attack. The Egyptian press says Zawahiri was behind the attack. The Egyptian press says Zawahiri lives in Switzerland, out the Swiss authorities deny it.

It is the third time an armed Egyptian militant group has claimed an attack abroad.

The largest group, the Gamaa Islamiyah, claimed a car-bomb attack in Croatia in October and a failed attempt to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia in June.

The MENA news agency in Egypt said Nazmi, who is survived by his wife and a daughter, had served in a number of diplomatic missions, including Washington and Hamburg. He had been stationed in Geneva since January 1994.

Egyptian Ambassador to Switzerland Mounir Zahran said Nazmi was robbed of his briefcase but the theft could have been a "camouflage" to hide the real reasons for the killing.

The diplomat was hit by six bullets after parking his car in the underground garage of the apartment building where he lived with his wife and four-month-old baby girl.

Mr. Zahran told the Swiss news agency the briefcase contained mostly documents relating to Nazmi's work at the U.N. Conference Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and a plane ticket for Morocco where he was meant to attend a trade seminar on Tuesday.

"All trails are still open," Mr. Zahran said.

Nazmi's body was discovered at 11 p.m. by another resident in the building.

Associations cry foul

(Continued from page 1)

way to maintain their benefits," he said.

The prime minister insisted, however, that associations should not play the role of political parties.

"You cannot use these institutions (the associations) to further your political aims and your parties' aims," he said, adding that any measure the government would take to achieve its goal would comply with the law and the democratic orientation of the state.

But the opposition parties said they will not accept any interference in the associations' role, urging all professional groups to unite on the basis of the programme adopted by the national conference for protecting the homeland and fighting normalisation. That conference, which was stated for last May, was never held, due to a government ban on it, but there was a statement prepared for the end of the conference which reaffirmed the opposition parties' stand against the peace agreement

with Israel.

"Protecting the professional unions is tantamount to protecting the Constitution and the citizen's basic rights, democracy as well as protecting the country's independence in light of the implementation of the Wadi Araba treaty (the Oct. 26, 94 peace agreement)," the opposition parties' statement said.

The parties reiterated their rejection of the peace treaty, which they insisted is not binding on them or the Jordanian people.

"Protecting the country and fighting normalisation with the enemy is a task for all the people. There is no alternative but to unite around that in these difficult times," the statement said.

The number of opposition parties which reject the peace process was reduced from 11 to nine after three of them, the Social Democratic Party, the Arab Democratic Party, and the Progressive Democratic Party, merged to form the Democratic Unionist Party, which was among the signatories to the statement.

Long U.S. budget

(Continued from page 1)

due Wednesday by drawing up to \$61.3 billion from two federal retirement funds.

The action also would enable treasury operations to continue until Jan. 2, when additional measures would be needed to avoid default.

"These actions are extraordinary, they are costly in many ways, but using this authority is immeasurably preferable to default," Mr. Rubin said.

"This is no way for a great nation to manage its financial affairs," he added.

The government shutdown was set in motion by presidential vetoes of bills lifting the debt ceiling and authorising stop-gap funding, but also containing budget-cutting provisions that the White House said were unacceptable.

By Tuesday, the Republicans had reduced their demands to a commitment by the president to "the principle" of approving a bill balancing the budget in seven years. But the White House held fast in the budget talks.

U.S. sees foreign role in Saudi blast

(Continued from page 1)

the Gulf" and "The Islamic Movement for Change."

Saudi security forces continued to bar cars and pedestrians from the area around the U.S. Office for the Programme Manager of the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

National Guardsmen deployed immediately around the site while police patrolled the neighbourhood.

The Pentagon said Tuesday that those who detonated the bomb had free access to the parking lot next to the building where they left a van loaded with 70 to 100 kilograms of high explosives.

The Indian who was killed was a cook in the building's

cafeteria.

An official Saudi spokesman said the authorities will announce information as soon as it becomes available and is verified.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said the bomb attack was predictable because of the problems facing the kingdom.

IRNA, citing an unidentified expert on the Middle East, said that "violation of human rights and widespread social and cultural discrimination" were commonplace in Saudi Arabia.

"Given the numerous problems facing the country, the emergence of such a crisis

is not surprising," it said. IRNA did not explicitly refer to the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia that is repeatedly denounced by Tehran.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has phoned King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and expressed regret over the bomb attack, his spokesman said.

He said Mr. Assad also expressed "Syria's keen interest in the security of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

He said that King Fahd "thanked... (Assad) for his sympathies and his interest in the security of the kingdom and its people."

Palestinians celebrate 'independence'

(Continued from page 1)

on the geographical map," Mr. Abdul Rahim said referring to the accord which led to the May 1994 launch of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"Today we control Jenin after already having taken control of Gaza and Jericho," Tulikarem, Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron and Jerusalem will follow," Mr. Abdul Rahim added.

He thanked Mr. Peres "for being committed to the peace process and implementing the second phase of the accord on Palestinian autonomy."

Israeli police said Israel is to evacuate its police station in Nablus on Thursday as it nears the end of 28 years of occupation.

The 60 policemen in Nablus are to be withdrawn to the nearby Jewish settlement of Mevo Horon, said Moshe

Levy, a senior police officer in the West Bank.

He said Israeli police would soon also be pulled out of Tulikarem.

Israeli soldiers on Tuesday loaded equipment out of their headquarters in Nablus into three waiting trucks and transferred control of the nearby prison of Farah.

According to Palestinian officials, the pullback from Nablus is due to be completed by Dec. 17.

Foreign investors unshaken by Rabin murder

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Confidence in Israel remains high among foreign investors despite the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, the finance ministry said Tuesday.

"All the signs from the international financial community and the multinational signal no change in their perception of Israel," said the director general of the treasury David Brodet.

Israel's business community had voiced fears after Rabin's death that it could affect the flow of foreign investment into the country, one of the biggest dividends for the Jewish state of the peace process.

Direct investments due to surpass a billion dollars this year, will continue at a similar level next year, Mr. Brodet said. In 1994 they reached \$600 million and \$300 million in 1993.

High technology remains the biggest draw for most foreign investors, especially the fields of telecommunications, software, and medical engineering.

The biggest Israeli industrial conglomerate Koor Monday "easily succeeded in raising \$120 million on the U.S. financial markets," Mr. Brodet said.

The operation, which went

ahead unaltered after Rabin's assassination on Nov. 4, was even three times oversubscribed.

A record number of 43 European, U.S. and Japanese banks are to take part Thursday in a syndicated loan to Israel of 350 million German marks (\$250 million) in London-based transaction led by the U.S. Chemical Bank and Israel's Leumi Bank.

The U.S. rating agency Moody's two weeks ago upgraded Israel's rating from B1 to A- "It did not consider it necessary to change the decision after the death of Yitzhak Rabin."

Israel's gross national product (GNP) is set to reach \$87 billion in 1995, a per capita figure of \$15,000, making Israel one of the 20 richest countries in the world in terms of per capita income.

The GNP has increased at an average annual rate of six per cent since 1990, one of the highest rates in the industrial world.

Unemployment has fallen to 6.5 per cent in 1995 compared with 11.4 per cent in 1992 and inflation is expected to level at eight per cent this year compared with 14.5 per cent in 1994, according to treasury figures.

Mr. Brodet said however,

that the balance of payments picture was not so healthy with an deficit expected to reach a record \$4 billion this year compared with \$2.5 billion in 1994.

"It is not a structural problem, rather it shows the weakness of the dollar which has handicapped Israeli exporters," he explained.

The budget deficit would be limited to 2.5 per cent of the GNP in 1996, he said, down from 2.7 per cent this year and 6.4 per cent in 1990. "We are continuing a very strict fiscal policy."

Turning to privatisations, Mr. Brodet said that 20 per cent of the controlling shares in the Hapoalim bank, the country's main financial establishment, would be floated on the market next year.

The privatisation of the telecommunications company Bezeq was also continuing.

But to defend the annual \$3 billion received in U.S. aid, Mr. Brodet stressed the country's large defence budget which takes up eight per cent of the GNP, down on 13 per cent 10 years ago.

He also highlighted the cost of integrating new immigrants which have increased the country's population by a fifth in six years.

Arab Gulf countries split over customs union

RIYADH (AFP) — Six Arab Gulf oil producers seeking to merge their economies were split Tuesday over setting up a customs union that could form the nucleus of their planned common market and open the way for a free trade pact with the European Union (EU).

Ending an emergency meeting in Riyadh, the finance and economy ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) acknowledged their failure to reach agreement on unifying their customs tariffs just a month before their leaders hold their annual summit in Muscat.

"We have decided to present our differing views to the upcoming summit," Bahrain Finance and Economy Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim told reporters after the brief meeting at Riyadh international airport.

"There are still some differences in the positions of member states towards this issue. As a result, the ministers decided to discuss the subject at other meetings. We have not reached any agreement at present," he added.

His statements followed optimism that the six members were about to announce the establishment of a customs union after they completed the classification of most imported products which could be either taxed or exempted.

Mr. Abdul Karim did not elaborate on the differences but GCC states impose widely varied customs on foreign imports, with some members levying high duties and others sticking to low tariffs.

French premier announces new tax to cut welfare deficit

PARIS (AFP) — Prime Minister Alan Juppe announced politically sensitive reforms of France's welfare system Wednesday, including a new tax intended to save it from bankruptcy.

Mr. Juppe announced the plan to parliament which will be asked for a vote of confidence later Wednesday. With his huge conservative majority in parliament, Mr. Juppe was expected to win the vote easily.

The prime minister also said he was delaying application of a new benefit for the elderly who depend on nursing care at home, which was one of President Jacques Chirac's election campaign promises.

Mr. Juppe announced a new tax of 0.5 per cent to wipe out the social security system's accumulated deficit of 230 billion francs (\$46 billion).

The tax would apply to interest on savings and unemployment pay, currently exonerated, and other social security benefits as well as salaries and unearned income.

The package was welcomed on the Paris Bourse, where the CAC-40 index, which had been up one per cent before Mr. Juppe's speech, gained another 1.36 per cent to 1,881.57 points. On the financial market, the franc firmed slightly to 3.5545 against the mark compared with 3.5565 earlier.

The finance ministry for its part said households would have to fork out an extra 32.1 billion francs (\$6.4 billion) in 1996 and 39.9 billion francs in the following year to pay for the package.

Mr. Juppe said his reform package was "global, ambitious, innovative and balanced," adding "we are going to succeed in doing something which no-one has dared to do for 30 years."

He stressed that his government's main objective remained jobs, but said the fight against deficits was inextricably linked with the fight against unemployment.

"My main objective, as I have said since May, is jobs. The fight against joblessness and the fight against deficits are one and the same fight. The deficit of today is the joblessness of tomorrow," he stressed.

The prime minister also said non-resident foreigners would have to pay in advance for hospital treatment, except in emergency.

The prime minister added he was ruling out an increase in retirement pension contributions but that family allowances would be taxed from 1997 in the framework of an overall tax reform. Mr. Juppe said that special treatment would be given to poor families and those with many children.

Mr. Juppe said there would be an annual budget ceiling for health care, to be voted by parliament, which would require a reform of the constitution.

"Such a change requires a revision of the constitution. It will be the keystone of the reform," Mr. Juppe said, adding it would be "the founding act" of a new social security system.

Mr. Juppe put his political future on the line when he unveiled the reforms in the teeth of widespread social unrest, including threats of a new general strike.

The plan was seen as a key test of the premier's authority six months after he took office following Mr. Chirac's

presidential victory last May.

Mr. Chirac has said reducing public deficits is a prerequisite for his "priority of priorities" — unemployment. It is also essential if France is to meet criteria needed for joining a European single currency in 1999.

Mr. Juppe said the 1996 deficit would be cut from an estimated 61 billion francs (\$12.2 billion) to 17 billion francs. The system would be in surplus by 1997, given continued economic growth, Mr. Juppe said.

The prime minister said that a special and temporary effort would be asked of doctors and the drug industry.

But elements within Mr. Juppe's ruling rightwing coalition have serious reservations about his reform package. Former premier Edouard Balladur had warned against excessive new levies, stressing that the deficit must be cut by making economies rather than new revenues.

On Wednesday, the prime minister appealed to Mr. Balladur and his supporters to back the reforms. Mr. Juppe heeded criticism from Mr. Balladur by postponing application of the new allowance for the dependent elderly until Jan. 1, 1997.

Mr. Juppe will also face attacks from the labour unions, who staged a day of action Tuesday which saw tens of thousands of protesters take to the streets in some 80 cities nationwide.

France's biggest independent union, Force Ouvriere (F.O.), has called for a general strike later this month to protest the welfare reforms.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Know just what your duties are in the world of activity today and handle them in a most precise and conscientious manner.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get out early this morning to gain the information you require so that you can make an accurate prize you are working on more successful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Stop daydreaming and get your duties completed for your mate in a very gracious way. Handle any business affairs which come up.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be with persons who are practical and can be of help to you today and forget the emotional ones who could be upsetting.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you are consistent at your career activities, you get fine results today. Discuss your mutual duties with a fellow associate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day to make arrangements for pleasant activities with your loved ones for tonight. Handle your business affairs wisely.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) There is an abundance of duties to be handled at home today so plan to do them. Try not to disagree with a family tie if possible.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a fine day today for handling practical matters and correspondence wisely and efficiently. Be happy at home this evening with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get busy at practical and money affairs today and you can get excellent results from your efforts which will be noticed by those in charge.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) In your spare time today, work those angles which will gain you your personal desires. Get good friends to assist you in your efforts.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get caught up with the odds and ends of duties which are important to you today, though not very much fun and you will be quite successful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be sure you gain today's spare time today and enjoy mutual interests. Stick to usual entertainments which have given you the most pleasure.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Handle only most important business matters today and tonight and then be off for a good time with congenial friends and loved ones. Some personal desire can be gained.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can easily charm an influential person today if you desire backing for some project which can also be profitable to him or her.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Become cognizant of varying conditions around you today which can help you to expand your interests and activities for your benefit.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Although very conventional, it is important you at this time get into the modern stream which can bring you greater success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Stop being so full of pride today and permit interesting personalities to come into your life and feel happier. Show you have wisdom and charm.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You need more modern methods and tools, mechanism if you want to make your career activities work more efficiently.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Step out of that rut today and study into new interests and pleasures you have not known before this for success and happiness.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Show more thought for those who live with you at this time and make life at home far more pleasant, and gain more benefits.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Put more pizzazz into your relationships with close friends and associates and tonight becomes far brighter for all concerned.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Even though you are conservative in business, if you use more modern methods at this time, you can have greater success.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you are more dramatic today, you can please others and be happier yourself. Stop being so self-sacrificing or you can be a miserable person.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) See advisors at this time who can help you to be more modern in business and forget antiquated methods which do little for you.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

Business

Leirut ban

Financial Markets

London Exchange

NHF to hold celebration

Jubilee School

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Main Theatre

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- Music Box, tel. 815745

- Romero, tel. 644227

- Royal Cultural Centre, tel. 661026

- National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

1 Reach the top

5 Pie piece

10 Toward the stem

13 Before potent or present

14 Television's O'Brien

15 Ad award

16 Neither liberal nor conservative

19 Cooler and jug

20 Ionian Sea inlet

21 Summon electronically

23 French city

24 Dacha kin

28 Antler pair

30 Numskull

31 Spy

32 Had debts

36 Important point in balance

39 Grub

40 Large part of the world

41 Al — (cooking term)

42 Boxer's weapon

43 Bank, often

44 Wall art

47 In order to

49 North Star

51 Spoke

56 Very corrupt

58 Is incorrect

59 Overeat

60 Norse deity

61 Kind of soup

62 Animal track

63 Fasting season

DOWN

1 Magnificence

2 Arab prince

3 "The King"

4 Jest with

5 Behind the — (privately)

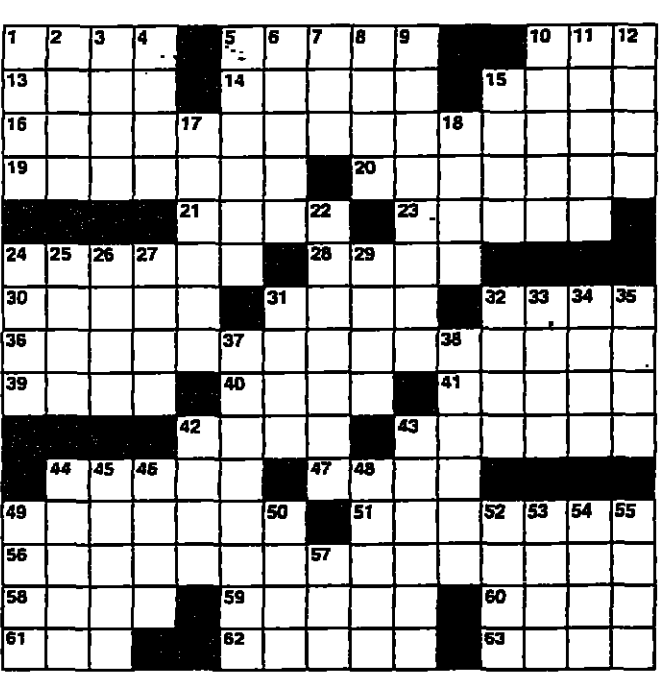
6 Unbound

7 News: abbr.

8 Suffragette

9 One who magnifies

10 Unequaled



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SICK OPEC REGAL
TRON EELS EROSE
REDO DEAF CROON
ENACT KNOCKOFFS
WESKIT DROOL
BILAS EON OIRB
STEADINESS KLEE
LANCE ORT ANEST
ERIK SWEETTOOTH
DAD BOB ROTC
SALLE RAKISH
KNOCKDOWN ROSIE
EAGRE WEEP VEER
RIPER ERAIS ERGO
FLUES RSTU REED

49 Get ready, briefly

50 Knock out

52 Earth sci.

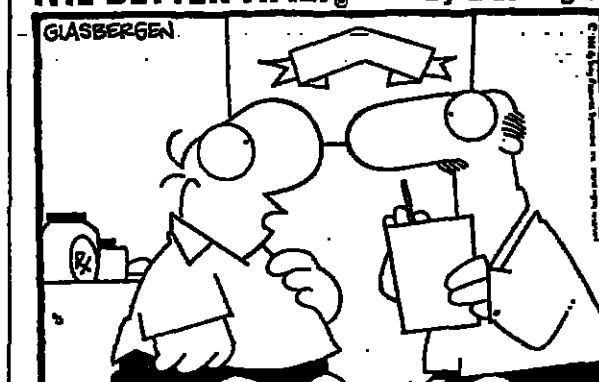
53 Took a train

54 Yeats' land

55 Headway

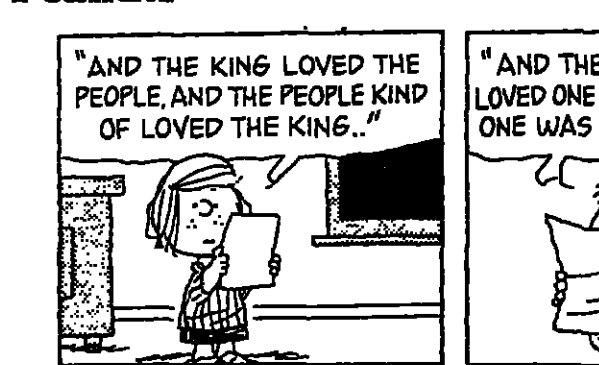
57 Gold, to Goya

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"How much would it cost to have all of my nerves removed so my boss can't get on them anymore?"

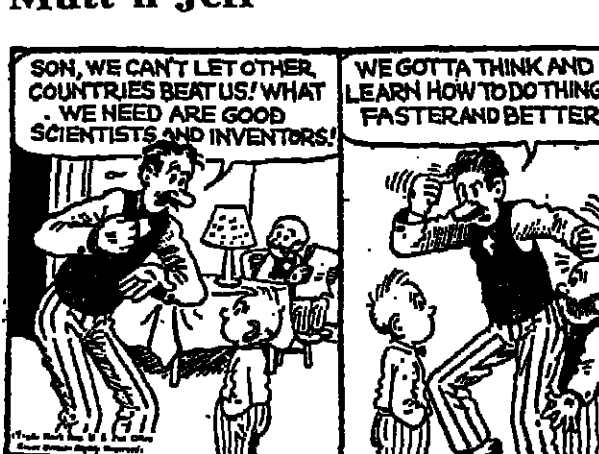
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYRNE

TIBEF

BIGTAM

DEFAUL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRAFT PAPER BUREAU DELUGE

Answer: A winning hand often means this — A GREAT DEAL

(Answers tomorrow)

THE WATER GOT THIS.

THUMP

AL SMITH

Beirut banks urged to cut foreign currency rates

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese Banks Association urged the country's 82 banks to join a pact to cut interest rates on foreign currency deposits to bring them into line with international rates.

Association president, Francois Bassile told bankers in a speech Tuesday that 16 top banks had signed the agreement — announced on Nov. 4 — aimed at consolidating Beirut's position as an emerging financial centre.

"We hope that it (the agreement) expands to include all the banks and we

hope it will be implemented by all of us as that will truly benefit the country and the banking system," Mr. Bassile said shortly before his reelection for a second term as association president.

"It is not permissible that we give rates on foreign currencies far from what is being adopted in international markets to which we are open and deal with heavily," Mr. Bassile added.

"Competition should be based on the quality of services to clients not by fighting through interest rates," he said.

Association officials say the average rate paid in Lebanon on bank deposits is less than 5.5 per cent but some banks give as much as 1.5 points above this and that this hurts Beirut's reputation as an emerging financial centre.

"The association thinks that if rates are much higher in Lebanon this would give a signal that there is high risk involved in investing here," a Beirut banker told Reuters.

Other banking sources say some banks give higher rates on short-term foreign currency deposits — up to 10 or 12 per cent per annum — to attract customers towards the end of the year in order to consolidate their own financial positions.

Statistics show industrial progress from 1952 to 1995

FOUR DECADES ago, Jordan had no industrial exports but today, the Kingdom's industrial exports amount to JD 716 million per year and reach 100 countries around the world, statistics from the Amman Chamber of Industry show.

Industrial exports, which include phosphate, potash, medicines, clothes, cement, foodstuffs, and plastic as well as leather products, account for 90 per cent of Jordan's national exports. Furthermore, the industrial sector's contribution to the gross domestic product increased from six per cent to twenty per cent.

The statistics showed that electric power reached about 10,000 subscribers in the early 50s but now electric power reaches 99 per cent of the population. Electricity generation increased from 15 million kilowatt hours to 4,728 million kilowatt hours at present.

In 1952, there were 800 workshops and plants in the country, but the number had climbed to 20,000. Also the number of industrial shareholding companies jumped from only three in 1952 to 83 companies at present.

Other statistics show that the gross domestic product in 1952 amounted to JD 80 million whereas the figure now stands at JD 4,226.2 million. Exports which totalled JD 1.53 million had risen to JD 794 million. The production of phosphate climbed from 2,500 tonnes to 4.2 million tonnes. There was no cement and potash production in 1952 but now Jordan's output of those two products amounts to 3.1 million tonnes and 550,000 tonnes respectively.

In addition, Jordan's production of woolen textiles, medicines and foodstuffs are estimated at tens of millions of dinars.

The Amman Chamber of Industry reviewed the industrial developments over the past four years noting that industrial investments between 1990 and 1994 totalled JD 475 million, 52 per cent higher than all investments in other sectors combined. The statistics showed that the capital of all new companies registered in 1994 amounted to JD 410 million while the amount in 1990 was only JD 46 million with the industrial sector accounting for more than 50 per cent of the capital. The total of capital invested in Jordan from 1991 until 1994 amounted to JD 907 million in the

agricultural, industrial, construction, commercial and service sectors providing 18,000 new employment opportunities, the statistics showed. These investments were spread over 17 agricultural companies and institutions, 1,835 industrial entities, 579 construction firms, 9221 commercial enterprises and about 4,757 service institutions. (AI Dustour)

THE DECLINE in trading volume and prices of shares at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) over the past few days is raising fears among investors that the stock exchange may be entering in a deep recessionary cycle.

AFM Director-General Umayyah Touqan said that there were no direct reasons to the decline in prices. Expressing astonishment over the AFM's performance, he stressed that all indicators point to an improvement in economic performance and hoped that demand for shares will pick up in the foreseeable future.

Senior banker and economist Mufleh Aqel attributed the weak AFM performance to the lack of liquidity as a result of the stringent monetary policy being implemented by the Central Bank to protect the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves and to control undesired credit expansion. He pointed out that other factors, such as the psychological barrier which has been broken and the economic summit which ended with great success, have been settled except the liquidity shortage, which, according to Mr. Aqel, remains the direct cause for the retreat at the stock exchange.

Mr. Aqel explained that liquidity is usually directed to the secondary market but, with the availability of new issues, investors prefer to go to the primary market. Also, he said, the increase in the number of companies at the secondary market from 80 to 150 has resulted in higher supply against weak demand. Another pressure on share prices, Mr. Aqel said, was the request of the new companies to shareholders to pay their instalments of the capital as well as opening letters of credit to import machinery and equipment causing funds to be siphoned away from the secondary market. (AI Ra'i).

Financial Markets

Amman Financial Market
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 607111 / 607119
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 15/11/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES	OPEN	TRADE	VALUE	PREV. CLOSING	CHANGE
ARAB BANK PLC	90	24355	12090	2,290,000	2,290,000	0
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2956	4.430	4.430	13,090	13,090	0
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	375	1.99	1.99	750	750	0
JORDAN POSTAL BANK	1561	1.460	1.460	2,270	2,270	0
JORDAN TRADING BANK	75	2.700	2.700	202	202	0
JORDAN GULF BANK	22740	3.676	3.676	83,616	83,616	0
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2640	9303	9303	24,612	24,612	0
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1425	6017	6017	8,585	8,585	0
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	24850	23426	23426	582,250	582,250	0
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	5483	8722	8722	47,822	47,822	0
BANKS SECTOR	71095	114016	114016	1,288.53	1,288.53	0.00
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	400	2.900	2.900	1,160	1,160	0
INSURANCE SECTOR	400	1060	1060	128.81	128.81	0.00
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	40478	6.476	6.476	2,616,000	2,616,000	0
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINE	100	252	252	2,520	2,520	0
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	3823	7112	7112	2,711,200	2,711,200	0
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	10000	30000	30000	3,000,000	3,000,000	0
ARAB INTL. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	550	1760	1760	9,760	9,760	0
ARAB PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	1500	6615	6615	9,922,500	9,922,500	0
UNION INFO DEVELOPMENT CORP.	359	400	400	1,400	1,400	0
SERVICES SECTOR	80850	120444	120444	1,246.15	1,246.15	0.00
ATTACHMENT CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	1200	1440	1440	1,728,000	1,728,000	0
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	6485	23300	23300	1,511,400	1,511,400	0
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	810	2420	2420	1,958,200	1,958,200	0
THE ARAB POTASH	4120	20091	20091	82,975,200	82,975,200	0
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	845	7778	7778	6,563,810	6,563,810	0
ARAB REFRIGERATION MANUFACTURING	500	2115	2115	1,057,500	1,057,500	0
JORDAN TRADING INDUSTRIES	100	3000	3000	3,000,000	3,000,000	0
JORDAN DAIRY	100	252	252	2,520	2,520	0
SPINNING & WEAVING	3500	6195	6195	21,682,500	21,682,500	0
RAVIA INDUSTRIES	150	138	138	20,700	20,700	0
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	1000	6700	6700	6,700,000	6,700,000	0
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	350	1790	1790	626,500	626,500	0
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	26500	17876	17876	473,832,000	473,832,000	0
ARAB PAPER INDUSTRIES & TRADING	500	5803	5803	2,901,500	2,901,500	0
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	5100	5059	5059	25,809,000	25,809,000	0
INTERMEDIATE PETRO CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	500	848	848	424,000	424,000	0
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	200	651	651	130,200	130,200	0
JORDAN SULPHUR CHEMICALS	700	861	861	602,700	602,700	0
ARAB CEMENT FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	3800	7276	7276	27,652,800	27,652,800	0
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	200	1385	1385	277,000	277,000	0
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	100	615	615	61,500	61,500	0
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	5000	7865	7865	39,325,000	39,325,000	0
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTE	46850	44188	44188	2,079,402,000	2,079,402,000	0
JACOB CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIES	3000	5875	5875	17,625,000	17,625,000	0
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	117450	194448	194448	1,211.04	1,211.04	0.00
GRAND TOTAL	269795	420469	420469	155.22	155.22	0.00

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

15/11/1995

Currency	Rate	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7010	0.7102
British Pound	1.1072	1.1152
Deutsche Mark	0.5041	0.5066
Swiss Franc	0.6742	0.6773
French Franc	0.1458	0.1465
Japanese Yen	0.7008	0.7043
Dutch Guilder	0.4501	0.4524
Swedish Krona	0.0445	0.0447
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies

15/11/1995

Currency	Rate	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8210	1.8210
Lebanese Lira	0.045565	0.045575
Kuwaiti Riyal	0.1885	0.1898
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3070	2.3670
United Arab Emirates Dirham	0.1927	0.1949
Egyptian Pound	0.2106	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.8530	1.8610
UAE Dirham	0.1927	0.1935
Qatari Dirham	0.2775	0.3125
Cypriot Pound	2.5575	1.5965

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.3562/72	Canadian dollar	1.4030/40
	1.5714/24	Deutsche marks	1.1336/46
	28.83/87	Dutch guilders	1.5887/97
	4.8465/15	Swiss francs	1.0105/15
	158.70/2.0	Belgian francs	6.6150/50
	101.05/15	French francs	6.1940/90
	6.6150/50	Italian lire	5.4383/83
	1.4113/18	Japanese yen	0.7365/70
	0.7365/70	Swedish crowns	7.7335/40
	7.7335/40	Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		Singapore dollars	
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One sterling	\$1.5568/78		
One ounce of gold	\$385.30/385.80		

NHF to hold celebrations at Jubilee School premises

ON THE occasion of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty the King's 60th birthday, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) will be holding a two-day celebrations at the Jubilee School's premises. The celebrations will include a live demonstration of NHF's projects and programmes. It includes basket and jewelry making; paper making; fabric and cloth making on looms; broom-making; rug-weaving on loom; pottery-making; clinical check-up by the Institute for Child Health and Development; a live improvisation by the Theatre-in-Education programme and a concert by the National Music Conservatory.

Live sessions with the Quality of Life Village Councils and Mother Clubs: a lecture on traditional home restoration and debates on contemporary issues will also take place during the event. The Jubilee School's students will also present a computer show, their own artistic productions; songs and plays.

These celebrations which will be held on Thursday and Friday, the 16th and 17th of November, 1995 from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. will give people an idea of the foundation which owes its success to the continued support of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty Queen Noor who presides the NHF's board of trustees.

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Will Tomba race?

VAIL, Colorado (R) — Will he or won't he? Only Alberto Tomba knows for sure and the Italian skiing star isn't talking — at least not for a few more days.

The first major race weekend of the World Cup ski season begins on Vail mountain on Thursday with, unsurprisingly, a major controversy that is centred, equally unsurprisingly, around Tomba.

A boycott threat by the defending men's overall champion is overshadowing a rare combined appearance of the men's and women's tours in a total of four races at this Rocky Mountain resort.

Tomba has threatened to boycott races using a controversial starting order. Months ago, the International Ski Federation mandated a reverse-30 rule for slalom and giant slalom races, meaning that the leader after the first run of a race would start 30th and last for the second.

Top races such as Tomba were angered, saying many courses would deteriorate under the pounding of so many skis, effectively penalising the leaders for their good early performances.

Tomba and Austrian star Guenther Mader stayed away from the season-opening giant slalom last Sunday at Tignes, France.

Tomba used the time to complete his training at Mammoth Mountain, California. Many have suggested he made his decision not out of principle but because he was ill-prepared and because the rigours of travel to Tignes and then to Vail weren't to his liking.

Since course deterioration in the giant slalom isn't usually a problem, and since women typically don't dent a course as much as men, the crunch will come at Sunday's slalom, an event that is Tomba's specialty.

The Vail programme begins with a women's Super G on Thursday, followed by men's giant slalom Friday, women's slalom Saturday, and then the concluding men's slalom. Both slaloms will be on neighbouring Beaver Creek Mountain, where technical events were run during the 1989 World Championships.

"I just hope our race isn't the guinea pig

(laboratory test animal) for the racer's protest," said Paul Major, head of a U.S. ski team hoping the event will play well to an American television audience that has often been difficult to attract to ski racing.

Thursday's race will be the season opener for the women, who saw last Saturday's scheduled giant slalom at Tignes blown away by bad weather.

That delayed the chase to succeed Switzerland's incomparable Verni Schneider as overall champion. After 11 World Cup seasons, Schneider retired with her third title.

Katja Seizinger of Germany, a close runner-up last season, is the favourite to succeed Schneider.

In the absence of Tomba and Mader, Michael Von Gruenigen of Switzerland won the men's opener, edging Lasse Kjus of Norway and Urs Kuelin of Switzerland.

While Vail officials worry about the possible disruption of their showcase event, the entire matter may be settled by course preparation and uncertain weather.

Ski federation rules provide that the race jury may elect to revert to the former reverse-15 format if they believe snow conditions are unfavourable.

Vail is known for its impeccable grooming, and the course was well-prepared using artificial snow a week prior to the race. But 18 inches (45 centimetres) of new snow and a run of warm weather cast doubt on the course's stability just two days from the start.

Austrian giant slalom standout Christian Mayer, another critic of the new rule, believes the men may use Vail as an opportunity to put their heads together before deciding what action to take.

"I believe you'll see a press conference and a statement the following week at Park City, Utah," Mayer said.

But no one can predict the often-independent actions of Tomba, who ultimately holds the key.

"If Tomba races and everyone else boycotts, nobody cares," Major said. "But if he doesn't race, it becomes a very big deal."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Zimbabwe to replace Nigeria in tournament

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zimbabwe will replace Nigeria in a four-team international soccer tournament in South Africa which starts this weekend, officials said on Wednesday. The invitation to Nigeria for the four nations cup was withdrawn by the South African Football Association (SAFA) on Monday in protest at the execution of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other human rights activists last Friday. Zimbabwe agreed on Tuesday to step in as replacements for the African champions.

Former Chinese champion to represent Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Former Chinese world table tennis champion Chire Koyama will represent Japan at the Atlanta Olympics next year, the Japan Table Tennis Association said Wednesday. Koyama, last year's Asian Games gold medalist, became a naturalized Japanese citizen after marrying an official of the Osaka Table Tennis Association, Hideyuki Koyama. She retired in 1989 after being dropped from the Chinese national team for the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988 despite her victories at the 1987 world championships in New Delhi and Asian championships three times under her Chinese name of He Zhili.

New stadium to replace Roker Park

LONDON (R) — Sunderland are set to leave their famous Roker Park ground after 97 years for a new 34,000-capacity all-seater stadium, the club's owner Bob Murray announced on Tuesday. After several years of talks, the north-east club have been given the go-ahead by the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation to build the 14.0 million pounds (\$21.83 million) stadium on the site of the former Wearmouth Colliery. It is due to be ready by August 1997.

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Dan Marjerle, of the Cleveland Cavaliers, makes his move towards the basket guarded by Chuck Person, of the San Antonio Spurs, during third quarter action at Gund Arena, Nov. 12. The Spurs won, 84-81 (Reuters photo)

Hardaway leads Magic past Bulls

ORLANDO (R) — Penny Hardaway picked up the Shaq slack again on Tuesday.

Hardaway scored 36 points and Nick Anderson and Dennis Scott added 16 apiece as the Orlando Magic used an 11-5 surge at the end of the game to hand the Chicago Bulls their first loss, 94-88.

Chicago (5-1) was the league's last unbeaten team. Hardaway shot 12-of-18 from the field and 4-of-7 from three-point range for Orlando (6-1), which extended its home winning streak to 35 games against Eastern Conference teams.

Earlier in the day, Hardaway was named player of the week as the Magic got off to the best start in franchise history — without their injured superstar centre Shaquille O'Neal.

"If we keep playing like this and get the big fella back, it's going to be scary," Scott said. "(Hardaway) played like the all-star that he is. He knew coming into the game that he had to force the issue and he made them work in the post all night long."

Michael Jordan scored 23 points and Pippen added 17 for Chicago. Pippen had 10 rebounds and six assists for the Bulls, who were eliminated by the Magic in six games in last season's conference semifinals.

"Michael and Scottie — they always bring out the best in any team," Hardaway said. "They brought out the best in us tonight."

"I think he's gained a lot of confidence offensively," Jordan said of Hardaway. "Defensively, I don't think he differs much. His repertoire of moves has really expanded in the sense that he's more confident in his moves inside and outside."

Toni Kukoc had 16 points and eight rebounds for Chicago, which had a 44-38 edge in rebounds despite the absence of four-time rebound champ Dennis Rodman, who was placed on the injured list with a strained calf earlier in the day.

In Atlanta, Stacey Augmon scored five of his season-high 20 points in the final two minutes as the streaking Hawks scored the last nine points in a 111-104 victory over the Charlotte Hornets.

Mookie Blaylock scored 19 points and Grant Long added 16 for the Hawks (5-2), who have won four straight and are off to their best start since 1988.

Larry Johnson scored 34 points and Glen Rice added 25 for the Hornets (3-4), who dropped to 0-4 on the road.

In Milwaukee, Glenn Robinson broke a slump with 36 points and triggered a 13-0 fourth-quarter run as the Bucks beat the San Antonio Spurs for the first time in four years, 98-84.

Eric Murdock added 12 points for the Bucks, who held the Spurs scoreless for five minutes in the fourth quarter.

Sean Elliott scored 31 points and David Robinson added 26 and 15 rebounds for the Spurs (4-2), who had their four-game winning streak snapped.

Glenn Robinson, the fading rookie scorer last season at 21.9 points per game, was averaging just 17.8 on 33 per cent shooting before scoring his season high.

In Philadelphia, Shawn Kemp scored 29 points and Hersey Hawkins had 21 as the Seattle SuperSonics held off the 76ers 115-107 for their fifth win in six games.

Gary Payton had 19 points and 11 assists for Seattle (5-2), which beat Philadelphia for the sixth straight time.

Rookie Jerry Stackhouse scored 27 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, and Vernon Maxwell added 24 and eight assists for the 76ers (2-3).

In Portland, Clifford Robinson scored seven of his 36 points in a third-quarter 13-3 spurt and Rod Strickland came within two rebounds of a triple-double as the Trail Blazers defeated the New York Knicks 105-99.

Strickland had 25 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds. Mitch Richmond scored 20 points for the Kings, who lost their second straight game since a win over Indiana last Friday that saw a major brawl.

Guard Sarunas Marculionis, centre Olden Polynice and forwards Michael Smith and Lionel Simmons all served suspensions Tuesday night for their part in the brawl.

NBA STANDINGS

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Orlando	6	1	.857	—
Miami	3	4	.750	1½
New York	5	2	.714	1
Philadelphia	2	3	.400	3
Washington	1	3	.400	3
New Jersey	2	3	.400	3
Boston	1	3	.250	3½
Central Division				
Chicago	5	1	.833	—
Atlanta	5	2	.714	½
Indiana	3	2	.600	1½
Charlotte	3	4	.429	2½
Detroit	2	3	.400	2½
Milwaukee	2	4	.333	3
Toronto	1	6	.143	4½
Cleveland	0	6	.000	5
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Dallas	5	1	.833	—
Houston	4	3	.590	½
Utah	5	2	.714	½
San Antonio	4	2	.667	1
Vancouver	2	5	.286	3½
Minnesota	1	4	.200	3½
Denver	0	6	.000	5
Pacific Division				
Sacramento	5	2	.714	—
Seattle	5	1	.833	—
LA Clippers	4	3	.571	1
Phoenix	3	3	.500	1½
LA Lakers	3	4	.429	2
Portland	3	4	.429	2
Golden State	2	5	.286	3

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NORTH
♠ Q73
♥ 54
♦ A Q 107
♣ A J 6

WEST
♠ A 2
♥ 10 9 7
♦ 8 6 5 4
♣ 8 7 4 3 2

EAST
♠ K J 5
♥ A K Q J 8 3
♦ 2
♣ Q 10 9

SOUTH
♠ A 10 9 8 6 4
♥ 8 4
♦ 8 3
♣ K 6

The bidding:
10 1♠ WEST NORTH
Pass Pass Pass 4♠

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

The 1961 Vanderbilt Cup was won by one of the strongest teams in the history of bridge — B.J. Baker, John Crawford, Sam Slegman and George Rapee. On this hand from that event, the bidding was the same at the two tables, and so was the play to the first three tricks. Yet only one declarer managed to land the game.

The auction would probably go the same way today. The vulnerable one-spade opened showed good values, and the North hand is certainly worth a raise to game.

The 10 of hearts was the opening lead by West at both tables, and in each case East overtook with the jack to make the fine switch to the two of diamonds — an obvious singleton. At both tables declarer won

in dummy and led the queen of spades, covered by the king and taken with the ace. Here the declarer's pawns diverged.

Where Crawford sat East, declarer continued with a trump. Crawford won the jack and undered his heart honors. He was fortunate to find West with the nine of hearts, and the diamond return was ruffed for a one-trick set.

At the other table Sam Stayman found a pretty avoidance play. After winning the ace of spades, South continued with the king, ace and jack of clubs. When East covered with the queen, declarer discarded his remaining heart rather than ruff. Now there was no way for West to gain the lead, and declarer lost only one trump, one heart and one club.

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Woman held in Rabin murder probe

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli police arrested Wednesday a 20-year-old woman settler accused of playing a central role in a plot to kill Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, police said.

Margalit Har-Shefi was arrested in the Beit El settlement close to Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, said police spokesman Eric Bar Chen.

At the court of Petah Tikva near Tel Aviv she was accused of playing "a main and central role in the conspiracy" and that she contributed to preparing Mr. Rabin's assassination, the police representative to the court said.

She is the eighth person being held for Rabin's assassination on Nov. 4 including self-confessed murderer, Yigal Amir.

After Amir, his brother Hagai was the next to be arrested after the assassination, accused of supplying the bullets.

Five others suspected of belonging to an extremist Jewish cell where then detained, including soldier Arik Schwartz, Dror Hadani, Ohad Skornik and Michael Epstein.

Schwartz's father was also held but later released.

On Wednesday a court remanded Skornik in custody for five days.

Meanwhile Avishai Raviv, the head of the extremist Eyal group with which Amir had links, was released on bail and placed under house arrest, police said.

Eyal is an offshoot of the anti-Arab Kach movement banned after a Jewish settler gunned down 29 Muslims at prayer in Hebron.



An Israeli police officer escorts two ultraorthodox Israelis to a Jerusalem court. The two were arrested for an attempt to desecrate the grave of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (AFP photo)

The courts also remanded extremist, David Balahen, accused of publicly defending Amir a day after the murder.

The head of Israel's internal security services Shin Bet told a parliamentary subcommittee he accepted full responsibility for his agency's failure to protect Mr. Rabin.

The head of Shin Bet, whose name is held secret, said he was unable to predict the assassination, infiltrate groups that planned it or prevent it from happening.

He told a parliamentary subcommittee on security that he was prepared to take full responsibility before a Shin Bet internal inquiry commission, which has yet to complete its report on the assassination.

He said Amir had meticulously prepared the assassination for two years and that at least two people knew of his plans: his brother Hagai and their friend Adam.

The security chief said that right-wing extremist Shlomo Hameiri had warned Shin Bet of the planned assassination but he was not taken seriously because "only the most

serious warnings are examined among the hundreds that the security service receives daily."

He also said that a police officer, contrary to his agency's recommendation, had left his post in front of the podium where Mr. Rabin was making a speech shortly before his assassination at a Tel Aviv peace rally.

Police detained two religious Jews who desecrated the grave of Mr. Rabin, a police spokesman said.

"One of them spat on his grave and the other one was in the process of attempting to relieve himself on the grave," spokesman Bar-Chen said.

He said the two, in their early twenties, were students at a religious seminary. They were arrested overnight.

Mr. Rabin's widow offered praise for the efforts made toward peace by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, saying they offered more hope than the actions of Israeli right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

Leah Rabin, in an interview broadcast late Tuesday by ABC television, said the Palestinian leader had done more for the Arab-Israeli

peace process than the Likud Party leader.

"The handshake two years ago with (Rabin and) Mr. Arafat symbolised hope and the beginning of a new road that we embarked for peace," Leah Rabin said.

"A handshake with Mr. Netanyahu I don't think presents hope for peace for most of us who believe in a certain way that peace can be achieved, that can be manifested."

The prime minister's widow, who has blamed Mr. Netanyahu for the climate that led to her husband's assassination, has said she shook hands with the opposition leader at Mr. Rabin's funeral to avoid a public scene.

By contrast, she received Mr. Arafat in her family home privately and said later the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader had "adopted" the family of the slain prime minister.

She told ABC that Mr. Netanyahu in public debates in parliament "used words like 'this prime minister is a lunatic,' 'this prime minister has lost a sense of direc-

(Continued on page 7)

Monitors satisfied Algerian presidential poll will be fair

ALGIERS (Agencies) — International observers monitoring Algeria's first multi-party presidential election said Wednesday they were satisfied that the poll would be free and fair.

All three teams of monitors from the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) said they were happy with the preparations for the election on Thursday.

Tight security surrounds the poll in the face of threats of violence from Islamic extremists who have fought a bloody civil war with the authorities that has left more than 40,000 dead since 1992.

Hussein Al Kamel, a former Egyptian diplomat heading a seven-member U.N. delegation here, told AFP: "The authorities here are being very open with us. We are following up all the information they give. We are satisfied that everything is being done correctly."

There was a similar message from the OAU, although press reports said Wednesday that its delegation had demanded an ex-

planation for the massive increase from 12 million to 16 million in the number of voters which Algeria has registered since 1992.

However, Sarao Toko, an OAU observer from Angola, said: "I don't see any problems. We are very happy with the way things are going."

The authorities have said the large rise in the number of voters can be explained by Algeria's rapid birth rate and the number of people who have come of age in those years.

The 44-member Arab League mission was preparing Wednesday to send its monitors out to 24 of the country's 48 provinces to ensure the election was conducted properly.

Ali Abdul Karim, assistant secretary general of the league and the team's leader here, said: "We have had several meetings with the Algerian committee supervising the election and met the candidate's representatives."

"We are satisfied that the preparations have been conducted properly. It is a free election," he added. "The

Algerian media here has given coverage to all the candidates."

Many Algerians said meanwhile they were sick of the violence ravaging their country, suggesting many would turn out to vote in the elections.

Some expressed hope the poll would be a first step towards ending the four-year conflict that has killed up to 40,000 people but others feared Islamic militants would launch attacks to disrupt voting.

"We are sick and tired of the violence," a taxi driver told Reuters in the Algerian capital.

"I hope the election will lead to change: change in the security situation, which means the ending of terrorism and change in the social and economic situation," he added.

An apparently distant blast was heard at 1005 a.m. (0905 GMT) in Algiers but there were no details on its cause or location. Hours later, Algeria's official media had not reported any incident.

Time pressing for peace deal with Syria — Beilin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Economy Minister Yossi Beilin on Wednesday warned time was running out to reach a peace deal with Syria ahead of a visit by U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross.

"With the Syrians we have very short while... my estimation is several months," Mr. Beilin told the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem.

Mr. Ross is due in Israel on Sunday in a renewed bid to break the deadlock in the negotiations between the Jewish state and Syria which ground to a halt in June after military chiefs-of-staff failed to make a breakthrough in security talks.

Acting Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has sent Mr. Ross and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher messages about the talks, and has predicted that a comprehensive peace including Syria was possible by 2000.

He called late Tuesday in his first full-length interview with Israeli television for a broader dialogue with Syria. "We have to talk on other levels than the military, to

foresee the whole range of problems and come up with new ideas. We will do all we can to renew the dialogue."

But Mr. Beilin was more pessimistic: "I am not sure that they have taken a big decision to make peace. Somehow they are hesitating. I do not see a strategic decision to make peace with us."

He said the past three years had been spent discussing only matters of procedure using the United States as a go-between.

"Had the Syrians been ready to discuss directly with us in a high level it could have been very different, but it is not the case," he said.

He warned the steps already taken could end in an impasse with Israeli elections due in November 1996 and the United States also preparing to go to the polls next year.

Syria has rejected Israel's demand to have early warning stations on the strategic plateau whereas Israel has so far refused to outline the scope and timetable of a withdrawal from the heights.

"Peace is not just to get back the Golan Heights but to normalise relations," Mr. Beilin said.

"We hope that on the other side, there are people who understand the opportunity which exists there and that time is not playing in favour of peace."

But so far U.S.-led attempts to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table have been to no avail.

Meanwhile Mr. Peres will travel to Washington at the end of November to try to relaunch the peace process, sources close to him said.

Fighter-bomber found with long-dead Aussie crew

CANBERRA (AFP) — The wreckage of a RAAF Beaufighter and remains of its two Australian crewmen have been found in Papua New Guinea 52 years after they disappeared in an attack on the Japanese, officials said here Wednesday.

The two men were identified as pilot, flying officer John Coates of Lake Boga, Victoria, and navigator, flying officer Charles Hilton Chapple of Greenhorne, New South Wales. RAAF spokesman Ken Llewellyn said the pair, members of 30 squadron based at Kiriwina Island, had disappeared on Nov. 25, 1943, during a routine low level sweep with another Beaufighter against Japanese coastal shipping.

There was no doubt they had crashed into thick jungle but they had remained "missing in action" and presumed killed until recently. A French survey team working through the area came across the wreckage of the twin-engine fighter-bomber on the island of New Britain and reported the find to Australian authorities, Mr. Llewellyn said.

The number, location and date of the crash and wartime reports allowed the RAAF to be fairly certain of the identity of the wreckage and its crew even before a RAAF crash team arrived at the site and found their dogtags. A small group of the men's relatives will be escorted back to their funeral at the Bita Paka War Cemetery near Rabaul.

Art theft rewards can corrupt police — experts

LONDON (R) — Informants are vital to the recovery of stolen masterpieces but police corruption can easily result if rewards are too high, art experts said. Detectives tracking down stolen paintings and insurers trying to minimise their losses agree, at an international conference on art theft on the need to work underground.

But Charles Hill, head of Scotland Yard's Art Squad that helped track down Edward Munch's stolen masterpiece *The Scream*, said: "Reward payments can too easily become a recipe for police corruption." Mr. Hill said that when rewards were demanded for stolen paintings, it was vital for the owner, insurers and police to "keep their nerve and stick together. The aim of the police should be to capture the imaginations of the thieves or handlers that they are blinded to reality."

Turning their blindness and stupid greed against them is the right tactic," he said. Insurance loss adjuster Richard Mangnall of the British firm Tyler and Co. said that in the 1970s some murky deals took place. "Some adjusters had perhaps got a little too close to police officers... Some reward money, sometimes quite a substantial amount, was going into the individual police officer's pocket," said Mr. Mangnall.

'Ultimate sex channel' banned

LONDON (AFP) — The Swedish pornographic satellite service XXXTV — which bills itself as "the ultimate sex channel" — was Tuesday effectively banned here by the British government.

National Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley announced an order outlawing the supply of XXXTV smart cards, programme listings or any advertising or support for the hardcore pornographic channel, previously known as TV Erotica.

Rabin murder probe

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